

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2020	Instructor Name:	Veronica Landeros
Course Title & #:	Psy 200: Biological Psychology	Email:	veronica.landeros@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20616	Webpage (optional):	https://imperial.blackboard.com/
Classroom:	411	Office #:	Part Time Office: Room 809
Class Dates:	2/1/20-6/12/20	Office Hours:	Available by Appointment
Class Days:	Mondays & Wednesdays	Office Phone #:	760-355-6144
Class Times:	800-0925am	Emergency Contact:	760-455-2569
Units:	3		

Course Description

An exploration of the biological basis of human behavior. The development, structure, and functions of the nervous system is thoroughly examined to provide insight into its complex relationship with human behavior, thought, and feelings. The history of neuroscience and methods of scientific inquiry are reviewed. (CSU, UC)

“Truth is, I’ll never know all there is to know about you just as you will never know all there is to know about me. Humans are by nature too complicated to be understood fully. So, we can choose either to approach our fellow human beings with suspicion or to approach them with an open mind, a dash of optimism and a great deal of candor.”

-Tom Hanks

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Describe the action potential and how communication takes place between neurons.
2. Critique current research in biopsychology.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of psychological theory regarding the relationship between physiology, cognition, and emotion.
4. Identify the biological causes of neurological and mental disorders.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Outline major events in the history of neuroscience and describe related advances in experimental methodology.
2. List and describe the functions of the structures and organelles of the neuron and discuss synaptic transmission.
3. Identify the functional organization of the human nervous system and the structures which make up the functional subsystems.
4. Summarize the development of the vertebrate nervous system throughout the lifespan and identify problems that may result from delayed or impaired development.
5. Identify and describe sensory structures and processes and discuss how the nervous system initiates and controls movement.
6. Explain the physical regulation of homeostasis and discuss the effect of homeostatic drives on human behavior.
7. Discuss circadian and other cyclical rhythms of the brain and resultant effects on human behavior.
8. Describe the biological controls of emotions and explain the significance of emotions in human behavior and cognitive processes. Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus Biological Psychology - PSY 200
9. List and describe the major diseases of the nervous system and explain modern views on the bio/psycho/social nature of mental disorders.
10. Relate current research findings on the biologic elements of human learning and memory.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Kalat, J. W. (2016). *Biological Psychology* (13th/e). Wadsworth/Cengage Learning: Belmont, CA
ISBN: 9781337670296

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Students are expected to comply with the following classroom norms:

1. Arrive to class on time, with all electronic equipment turned off and put away.
2. Remain in the classroom during each class session until excused by the instructor.
3. Be respectful of fellow students, the instructor, and any guests.
4. Maintain confidentiality of information shared by fellow students.
5. Actively listen during class, and participate in class activities and/or discussions.
6. Use English for all course-related activities, on and off campus.

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussion/activities, assigned readings, videos, individual projects and performance on quizzes and exams.

Thought Papers. There will be thought papers due at various times during the semester. These are essays of 1-2 pages, which will be based on the readings and class material. Late papers will not be accepted and I DO NOT accept thought papers by e-mail. Thought papers should address the following:

- 1) A provocative or interesting idea regarding themes learned from the text, class discussion, an article from the internet or magazine, and/or a television program, from your point of view.
- 2) Don't provide a review of the reading/program, but your own thoughts regarding the topic. The main focus of thought papers is for you to learn to think critically about psychology. The intention of the assignment is to get some ideas down about the readings, class discussion, or human behavior and then begin exploring your ideas. You do not have to write what you think I would agree with or what is necessarily true, you just need to justify your ideas and statements with explanations.

Assignments. There will be various in class and/or take-home assignments to help you learn the class material. All assignments will be worth 10 to 30 points.

Quizzes. There will be several quizzes. Quizzes will be administered in class or as take-home assignments, will be announced in advance typically, and will occur about once every 1-2 weeks. It is important to come to class to know when a quiz might occur. **HOWEVER BE PREPARED FOR UNANNOUNCED QUIZZES.** These will generally occur if I notice an overall decline in class participation and attendance. Quizzes may include any or all of the following types of questions: multiple choice, true-false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer/essay.

Exams. The exams are entirely multiple choice, and you must take them all. If you are late to class, you will not be allowed to take the quizzes or exams. Some chapters listed may not be covered in class, but you are still responsible for the material, unless otherwise specified. No make-up exams will be given unless you have called me PRIOR to the exam and let me know you will not be able to take the exam. If you contact me prior to the exam, you will have one week to make-up the exam.

Method of Evaluation: Class Activities, Attendance, Participation, Quizzes, Final, Problem Solving Exercises, Written Assignments.

Instructional Methodology: Audio visual, Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activity, Lecture

Out of Class Assignments:

There are homework assignments that are given to review every chapter before lecture. They will be posted on Canvas, no late work accepted. There will also be periodic Thought Papers assigned throughout the semester.

Reading and Writing:

Reading assignments include assigned text readings; current articles and/or sources from the internet. Students will write Thought Papers throughout the semester.

Web-Enhancement

This course is presented in a web-enhanced format, available through the Imperial Valley College Distance Education Program. For more information regarding the IVC online Canvas system go to <https://imperial.canvas.com/>

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

How much you learn in the course, as well as your final grade, depends on the effort you put into the readings, assignments, class preparation, and class participation & attendance. Grades will be assigned on the basis of the following weights:

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-70 = C

69-60 = D

59 & Below = F

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to arrive to class on time, with all electronic devices turned off and put away. Since participation in classroom work and discussion is an important part of this course, students will have **10 points deducted** from their class points for each unexcused absence. Students having three unexcused absences may be dropped from the class. Students who are tardy three times will be considered as having been absent once. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved conferences and contests and attendance upon field trips will not be counted as absences. If you are tardy to a test you will NOT be able to take it. If you are more than 20 minutes to a class (start time or from break) you will not be able to sit in on the lecture. **DISRUPTIONS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**

LEAVING CLASS: Students are expected to remain in the classroom throughout the entire class session. Students leaving the class early, or just briefly, without prior instructor approval, will have **points deducted** from their class points.

CELL PHONES and ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class. Cell phones ringing during class and all electronic devices not put away will be held by the instructor until the end of class.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

****STUDENTS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE.****

Netiquette

Netiquette is a combination of the words "network" and "etiquette." Basically, it describes things you should and shouldn't do while communicating with other people online. This is especially important in a classroom environment. Here are some examples:

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.**
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the

context of the academic assignment in question. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: looking at another student's papers, speaking out answers or questions, the use of open books or notes, use of cell phones, finger spelling in sign language or by notes written on the skin. Baseball caps may not be worn during quizzes or tests. Do not use iPods or such music-providing devices during lectures or tests.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Accessibility

Every effort has been made to ensure that this course is accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. If you encounter a problem accessing any portion of this course, please contact the instructor immediately.

Office Hours

The instructor's office hours are as follows: _

Available by appointment

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor at any time during the semester via email at, veronica.landeros@imperial.edu or by telephone at 760-455-2569.

Withdrawal From the Course

It is the responsibility of the student to officially withdraw from the course through the Office of Admissions and Records. **Maintain control of your own records. As soon as you know you will not be attending a class, DROP IT by using WebSTAR.**

You will receive grades of F for courses you are no longer attending and have not dropped and those grades will remain on your transcript forever.

Give your fellow students a break. Others may be trying to register for a class you know you will not be attending; drop it so they may be able to take it.

DO NOT RELY ON ANYONE ELSE; PROTECT YOUR RECORDS. Instructors MAY drop for nonattendance, but many do not. You are responsible for all classes for which you register. Do not assume you will be dropped for nonattendance. The failing grades you receive will not be changed because you quit

attending. The following deadlines are for full-term classes. Short-term classes have unique deadlines – contact the Admissions and Records Office.

Deadline to drop without owing fees and/or be eligible for a refund ***February 29***.

Deadline to drop full-term course without appearing on your transcript ***March 1***.

CAUTION: Do Not Wait until these deadlines to drop. Some fall on days when the College is closed. If you have problems, no one will be available to assist and exceptions will not be made because you did not drop on time.

WebSTAR Instructions:

1. Follow the instructions for “Register or Add Classes” until you reach the Add/Drop Classes screen.
2. Click on the arrow in the Action box of the class you wish to drop. The drop status possible for the course at the time you are attempting to drop will be displayed. Click on that status.
3. Click on Submit Changes.
4. Verify you completed the process correctly by reviewing your schedule. See the later section on Review and/or Print Your Schedule.
5. Review your fees. See later section on Review Fees

IMPORTANT: You must be an active participant in the course. If you do not turn in any assignments for two weeks without contacting the instructor, you may be dropped from the course

Additional Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- **[Canvas Support Site](#)**. The Canvas Support Site provides a variety of support channels available to students 24 hours per day.
- **[Learning Services](#)**. There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- **[Library Services](#)**. There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the [Study Skills Center](#), study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the [Disabled Student Programs and Services](#) (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.

- **[Student Health Center](#)**. A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and El Centro Regional Center provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6310 in Room 2109 for more information.
- **[Mental Health Counseling Services](#)**. Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC [Mental Health Counseling Services](#) at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.