

Psychobiology (Psych 241)  
9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Tue.-Thurs.

Fall 2013  
Class # 20518

Dr. Michael L. Farris  
Cerritos College, Room S.S. 213

### Course Syllabus

Welcome to Psychobiology! I am pleased that you have decided to take this course. We will explore the extent to which biological processes interact with environmental influences to determine behavior. This course approaches psychology from a biological perspective by examining the structure and functions of the nervous system and related systems, and the roles they play in normal behaviors (such as perception, motivation, sleep, emotion, learning, and memory) and in psychopathological conditions (such as affective disorders and schizophrenia). Although you may find Psych 241 to be challenging, you will find the material to be of enormous value, not only as a student, but throughout your life because the information and techniques offered in this course can give you a new way to look at yourself and others.

**Student Learning Objective:** We will focus on learning the difference between genetics (nature) and environmental factors (nurture) as motivating forces underlying behavior, and upon the influence of cause and effect relationships in biological psychology. These themes will be presented throughout the semester, and there may be a short quiz covering nature vs. nurture and/or cause and effect.

This is an academic class and your consistent attendance is required. Attendance and classroom participation will be a factor in final grades, particularly in cases where you are close to earning a higher letter grade in the class.

If your absences should exceed four class hours, you may be dropped. Poor attendance can also result in a loss of points. You may obtain an excused absence only if you speak with me on the first day of your return. It is your responsibility to keep ahead of reading assignments and to know about exams even if you are absent. You might want to obtain the phone number of at least one of your classmates in order to find out what you missed in case you are absent. You will improve your chances of success in this class if you read the chapter in advance of the lecture.

This is how your grade is established:

Chapter Quizzes are worth 100 points each, for a total of 600 Points (100% of your grade), with attendance and participation to be factored in at the end of the semester.

Your letter grade is based on a percentage of 600 possible points:

A=90% (540-600 Pts)    B=80% (480-539 Pts)    C=70% (420-479 Pts)    D=60% (360-419 Pts)  
F=<60% (0-359 Pts)

Quizzes are based entirely on material in your textbook (Brain & Behavior, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, by Bob Garrett; ISBN# 978-1-4129-8168-2), handouts given in class, lectures and study guides. You can expect seven of them. The good news is that the last quiz counts as your final, and is worth the same amount as any other quiz. Most quiz questions will be covered in class lectures, but you are responsible for the material in the chapter and on handouts given in class. Quizzes are objective and multiple choice. You'll need to bring a number 2 pencil and a scantron (#882) to each quiz.

I realize that something may come up that prevents you from getting to class on a quiz day. In order to allow for one such emergency, there will be a designated day set aside for a make-up quiz. This day (listed on your agenda) will be reserved for those who have missed one quiz. Quizzes which have received a letter grade may not be re-taken for a higher grade. All quizzes will count toward your final class grade.

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
What is Biopsychology?	1 (pages 1-22)
Communication Within the Nervous System	2 (pages 23-52)
The Organization and Functions of the Nervous System	3 (pages 53-90)
The Methods and Ethics of Research	4 (pages 91-124)
Drugs, Addiction, and Reward	5 (pages 125-154)
Motivation and the Regulation of Internal States	6 (pages 155-188)
The Biology of Sex and Gender	7 (pages 189-222)
Emotion and Health	8 (pages 223-252)
Hearing and Language	9 (pages 253-292)
Vision and Visual Perception	10(pages 293-328)
The Body Senses and Movement	11(pages 329-362)
Learning and Memory	12(pages 363-392)
Intelligence and Cognitive Functioning	13(pages 393-426)
Psychological Disorders	14(pages 427-466)
Sleep and Consciousness	15(pages 467-503)

Here are some other items that are important:

- I really want you to succeed in this class. If you are having any problem of any kind that you think is affecting your performance, especially attendance, *please talk to me.* Communication is extremely important and I support your efforts.
- Please e-mail me if you want to discuss psychology, your progress in class, or anything else that concerns you. *My e-mail address is mfarris@cerritos.edu, and our class website is www.mlfarrispsych.webstarts.com.*
- Talking excessively to other students during a lecture or while another student is speaking is not advised. Leaving during the middle of a class may cause you to miss important handouts and other information. If you have to leave early, please let me know.
- Anyone can be late on occasion. However, habitual tardiness may reduce your grade. Attendance will be recorded each day on a sign in sheet.
- Please turn your phones and pagers off before class begins. If you must make or receive a call, please leave the classroom first.
- Final grades will officially be provided by the office of Admissions and Records.
- **If you should decide to stop attending class, *it is your responsibility to drop yourself at Admissions.* If you stop attending and do not notify admissions, you may receive an F.**
- Every aspect of this syllabus, your agenda, and this class are subject to change. I will adjust pacing and material to the needs of your particular class.

*Thank you again for joining this class. I wish you a successful semester, and welcome you!*