

PSYCHOLOGY 360: BIOPSYCHOLOGY

2007-2008

PROFESSOR

John P.J. Pinel

Office: Room 3509, Kenny Building

Office Hours: Early Monday or Wednesday mornings--or any other time that you find me in my office. Do not hesitate to drop by for a chat.

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TEACHING ASSISTANT

Name: Kristina Uban

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Office: Room 3510, Kenny Building

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00 – 12:00

Note: If no students show up in the first half of an office hour, Kristina may leave.

TEXTBOOK

Biopsychology (Pinel, 2006, 6th edition). There are some companion study guides available in the bookstore for those who may find them useful.

TEXT CD

The text comes with a CD that contains lists of key terms with their definitions organized for easy study, study questions, mini lectures, and animations, all designed to supplement the text. Check it out.

CLASS SCHEDULE

In both terms, the class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to about 10:45 in Buch B212.

PREREQUISITES

The prerequisite for this course is Psychology 260. I routinely give permission to senior life science majors (e.g., Physiology, Pharmacology, Biology majors) or senior Cognitive Science majors to take this course without the 260 prerequisite. Others without the 260 prerequisite (e.g., Psychology Arts majors or anybody in 2nd year) must drop the course unless I have given them special permission. If you have taken Psychology 304, you may not take 360 for credit.

LECTURE TOPICS

The lecture topics correspond to chapter numbers 1 to 18 in Biopsychology.

1. Biopsychology as a Neuroscience
2. Evolution, Genetics, and Experience
3. Anatomy of the Nervous System
4. Neural Conduction and Synaptic Transmission
5. Research Methods of Biopsychology
6. The Visual System
7. Mechanisms of Perception, Conscious Awareness, and Attention
8. The Sensorimotor System
9. Development of the Nervous System
10. Brain Damage and Neuroplasticity
11. Learning, Memory, and Amnesia
12. Hunger, Eating, and Health
13. Hormones and Sex
14. Sleep, Dreaming, and Circadian Rhythms
15. Drug Addiction and the Brain's Reward Circuits
16. Lateralization, Language, and the Split-Brain
17. Biopsychology of Stress and Illness
18. Biopsychology of Psychiatric Disorders

EXAMINATIONS

There will be four examinations: two midterm examinations, a Christmas Examination, and a Final Examination. The Christmas and Final Examinations will be written during the examination periods at the times designated by the Registrar's Office. You must be available to write your examinations at any time during the prescribed examination periods. The midterm examinations will be written during regular class periods. Your fall midterm will be on Tuesday, October 16; and your winter midterm will be on Thursday, February 28.

<u>Examination</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Test Topics/Chapters</u>
Fall Midterm	80 min	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Christmas	2 hours	6, 7, 8, 9
Spring Midterm	80 min	10, 11, 12, 13
Final	3 hours	Part 1: 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
		Part 2: 1 – 18 (2 general essays)

All examinations will be composed of multiple choice questions, fill-in-blanks questions, and essay questions. As the course progresses, there will be more emphasis on essay questions. You will always be instructed to use headings in your essay answers: This helps you organize your thoughts, and it helps the marker mark more fairly.

If you encounter what you believe to be a faulty question on an exam, answer it to the best of your ability under the circumstances, and write a brief explanation of what you think is the problem on the front of your examination. Occasionally, bonus marks are awarded to those who spot subtle ambiguities or errors. Note that the instruction on all multiple choice questions will be to “select the single best response.”

Details about each examination (number and types of questions) will be presented at the beginning of the second-last class period before each examination. There will be an optional tutorial in the last class period before each examination. The fall midterm, Christmas exam, and winter midterm will each cover all assigned textbook chapters and all lectures from the previous half term, that is, everything covered since the preceding examination.

The final examination will be composed of two parts: The first part will deal with material covered since the winter midterm; the second part, the comprehensive portion, will deal with material covered throughout the course. The comprehensive portion of your final exam will be composed of two general essays that focus on themes of the course. One will focus on one of the four designated themes of your text--see the four theme tabs in your text.

GRADES

Your final grade in this course will be weighted in the following manner:

Fall Midterm	15%
Christmas Exam	25%
Spring Midterm	20%
Final Exam	40%

MISSED EXAMINATIONS

If you miss an examination due to illness, contact me as soon as possible by phone or in person, preferably before the examination,. When you are well, make an appointment to see me. Bring to this appointment a letter from your doctor or the Dean's Office on letterhead. If you are writing a supplemental final examination, contact me, and I will arrange for you to write it at a convenient time under my supervision.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

The Department of Psychology has adopted the following target grade distributions in 300- and 400- level courses. The Department reserves the right to adjust final grades in this course if the distribution deviates substantially from the target. You will be pleased to learn that Psychology 360 is regarded as a strong class.

Class Performance	Mean	SD	%A	%(A+B)	%Fail
Strong class	70	13	22	56	6
Average class	68	13	18	50	8
Weak class	66	13	14	44	11

POINTS TO REMEMBER

There are 13 weeks (26 classes) per term and 9 chapters will be covered each term. This means that there will be 2 or 3 lectures per chapter. Plan your reading and studying accordingly.

Productive classroom discussion and debate are encouraged.

Lectures will not focus on the presentation of facts; this is the function of your text. Lectures will typically focus on particularly important and/or interesting ideas. You are responsible for all text material and all lecture material.

Using a textbook that has been written by your professor has certain advantages, the major one being consistency: Rarely will I disagree with a position taken by the author of your textbook. However, take care not be lulled into a false sense of security by this concordance--most essay questions will be based largely on lecture material, which may or may not be covered in the same detail in the text. The take-home message: Missing class is risky for students who are trying to excel.

This course evolves. As you proceed through it, you will find more and more emphasis on interpretation, critical evaluation, discussion, and personal implication--as opposed to memorization. Consequently, study strategies that work well for you early in the course may not be as effective later on.

The first quarter of the course reviews and extends material that most of you have encountered in Psychology 260. For this reason, we will move very quickly through this material. Note, however, that the standards in 360 are higher than those in 260. Many former 260 students needlessly do poorly on the first examination because they do not appreciate this point.

As soon as the midterm and Christmas examinations have been marked, the unofficial results will be posted in the Kenny building with student numbers but no names. Please check your grade.

You are strongly encouraged to review your examination results with your teaching assistant. Requests for the adjustment of a grade on a particular exam must be made within 4 weeks of the posting of the grades for that exam. Most requests for adjustment of grades can be settled directly with your teaching assistant. In cases of a dispute that cannot be satisfactorily resolved in this fashion, I will render a binding decision after reading the examination and talking to both parties.

It is a university regulation (see the UBC Calendar) that students may not view their final examinations without special written permission from the Dean's Office--during such a viewing students and professors are prohibited from discussing the grading. If you are unhappy with your grade on the final examination, you may officially request from the Registrar's Office (within 4 weeks of the announcement of the final grades) that your examination be remarked (see the UBC Calendar).

DEADLINE TO APPLY TO GRADUATE

Remember that if you are planning to graduate in May, you must apply for graduation. Application forms are available at the Registrar's Office. Get one now.

ACADEMIC CONCESSION

During your time in this course, if you encounter medical, emotional, or other personal problems that affect your attendance or academic performance, please notify me, as well as your Faculty Academic Advising Office. Please refer to the UBC Calendar for a discussion of academic concession.