Teaching Assistant and Office Hours:

Overview and course goals: Psychology 121 explores the biological bases of behavior. We will examine both classical and contemporary issues in behavioral neuroscience, including introduction to nervous system, physiological and behavioral effects of drugs, biological theories of behavioral disorders and the biological basis of learning, memory, emotion and stress.

The goals of the course are to:

- provide students with foundational knowledge in behavioral neuroscience which includes contemporary theoretical issues and research methods.
- to encourage students to think now, and into the future, about the role of the nervous system in all psychological processes.
- to begin to develop the ability to read and interpret original research articles and think critically about topics in behavioral neuroscience.

Lectures:

- Lectures attendance and class participation are required. We will make frequent use of iClickers to poll for in class questions. For each question you will receive participation credit (85% of the question’s total) and credit for a correct answer (15% of the question’s total). You are considered to have participated in class if you respond with your iClicker. If you fail to click in for a question, you will not get credit for that question.
- Missed class participation cannot be ‘made up’, regardless of circumstances (with the exception of religious holidays and excused absences as documented by the CAS Dean’s office). If you are absent from lecture you will receive a zero for that day’s in class questions. Please note that contacting the professor or teaching assistant ahead of time to let us know that you will be absent or late to class, while appreciated, does not allow you to make up that day’s participation.
- Lecture outlines and PowerPoint slides will be posted prior to each lecture. I hope that you will use the slides to supplement your note taking.
- Each student will be responsible for the material covered in class. If a student misses a class for any reason, the student should ask a fellow student for lecture notes.

Exams:

- **Mid-term Exams:** Your comprehension of the lecture material and assigned lecture readings will be assessed by 3, 50 question multiple choice “mid-term” exams. These exams will be based on the material covered since the last exam and will include questions derived from lecture material and assigned readings. Each of these exams is worth 15% of your final term grade.
• **Exam Review Sessions:** During the week of each regularly scheduled exam, the Teaching Assistant will offer a review session. The date, time, and location of each review session will be announced in class. The Teaching Assistant will answer questions pertaining to the material covered on the exam.

• **Final Exam:** A cumulative final exam will be given on December 12th @ 1:30 in Billings Lecture Hall. Exemptions from taking the exam at the scheduled time will only be granted under College and University exceptions (e.g., no more than three exams in one day). Therefore, please plan accordingly.

• **Make-up Exams:** Please note that make-up exams will be administered only in the case I am notified by the Dean’s Office of a valid and documented emergency. In such cases, please request an excused absence through the CAS Dean’s Office (656-3344). If you do not have this documentation, you will not be permitted to take a makeup exam. Please do not expect to receive permission to make up an exam if you lack the required written documentation described above.

**Using your iClicker:** The iClicker will indicate that your vote was received: a green light will flash. You are responsible for confirming that your iClicker is in working order and that your votes are being recorded. If your iClicker fails to respond, return it to the UVM store for a replacement (make sure you keep your receipt). If you lose it, you will need to buy another and make sure your registration is updated.

**Laptop Policy:** Laptop use during lectures is prohibited except by instructor permission only.

**Research Articles:** There will be a total of 7 research article assignments. These will require you to read supplemental material and respond to questions that we provide. Each homework assignment will be worth 10 points and will be due at the beginning of class on the designated due date.

**Biopsychology in the Media Poster:** Another goal of the course is to encourage students to think now, and into the future, about the role of nervous system in all psychological processes. To encourage such broader thinking, each student will be required to research and describe in the form of a scientific poster, an example of “biopsychology in the media” (movies, television, music, magazines, newsprint, etc). The scientific poster will discuss and critique an example of biopsychology in the media with reference to original scholarly research articles on the topic.

**Extra-Credit:** You can earn up to 10 points of extra credit by completing an additional homework assignment. All extra credit must be completed by **Friday, November 21**


**Grading:** Exams, in class poll questions and homework assignments are meant to provide additional learning experiences as well as assess your mastery of the course material. Hard work alone will not guarantee a high grade. Students are expected to learn the material with precision and be able to express that knowledge well beyond simply reciting memorized facts.

Your final letter grade will be computed based on the following percentages:

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<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid Terms (3 @ 75 pts)</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Class Questions</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Articles (7 @ 10 pts)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biopsychology in the Media</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (12/12 @ 1:30)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Letter Grades are awarded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>470 - 500</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>450 - 469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>430 - 449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>420 - 429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>380 - 399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>370 - 379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>350 - 369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>330 - 349</td>
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Tips for Studying Effectively:

- Outline textbook chapters. This will force you to read carefully and pay attention to what you’re reading. In addition, it will force you to link together ideas, definitions, and concepts, which will deepen your understanding and lead to much better retention. Your outline can then serve as a study guide and you’ll find studying for exams to be relatively painless!
- Read-recite-review. Read it. Put your book and notes aside and recite it. Review what you don’t know. Research shows that just re-reading (even over and over) is not very effective for retention!

Course Policies:

- **Religious Holidays:** Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. Each semester students should submit in writing to their instructors by the **end of the second full week of classes** their documented religious holiday schedule for the semester. Faculty must permit students who miss work for the purpose of religious observance to make up this work.
- **Special Needs and Health:** For special needs, you can get information at www.uvm.edu/access. For health-related issues, you can get information at www.uvm.edu/health.
- **Accommodations for Students with Special Needs:** If you have a special need for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact UVM’s ACCESS Office (Accommodation, Consultation, Collaboration & Educational Support Services) by phone (656-7753) or email (access@uvm.edu). That office will guide you through the processes that is required for accommodations to be made.

Important Dates: The Add/Drop deadline is **Monday, September 8th**. If you drop the course before this deadline, it will be removed from your transcript. The Withdrawal deadline is **Monday October 27th**. If you withdraw from the course after September 8th but before this deadline, it will remain on your transcript with a grade of ‘W’.

UVM Department of Psychology Code of Classroom Conduct: Faculty and students will conduct themselves at all times in a manner that maintains, promotes, and enhances the high-quality academic experience befitting courses at the University of Vermont. The essential characteristic of this policy is **respect of others**.

- **Student responsibilities**
  - Students are expected to attend every class, arriving promptly and remaining alert and involved until dismissed by the instructor. *Leaving and then re-entering the classroom is strongly discouraged.*
  - Students are expected to be prepared for class. This means doing the readings and completing the assignments ahead of time. It also means having thought about the readings and being prepared to engage in discussion and pose meaningful questions in class.
  - Following Department of Psychology policy, using laptop computers or other web-enabled devices in class is not allowed. This policy may be waived for an individual at a professor’s discretion.

- **Faculty and student responsibilities**
  - Faculty and students will promote academic discourse and the free exchange of ideas by listening respectfully to all individuals in the class.
  - Faculty and students will treat all members of the learning community with respect and will not discriminate on the basis of characteristics that include race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, or gender identity or expression.
  - **Mutual respect includes turning off cell phones or other web-enabled devices prior to the beginning of class, refraining from leaving the room in the middle of class, and, when given permission to use a laptop, using it for course-related activities only.**

UVM Code of Academic Integrity: All academic work (e.g., homework assignments, written and oral reports, use of library materials, creative projects, performances, in-class and take-home exams, extra-credit projects) must satisfy the following standards of academic integrity:

- All ideas, arguments, and phrases, submitted without attribution to other sources, must be the creative product of
the student. Thus, all text passages taken from the works of other authors must be properly cited. The same applies to paraphrased text, opinions, data, examples, illustrations, and all other creative work. Violations of this standard constitute plagiarism.

- Students may only collaborate within the limits prescribed by their instructors. Students may not complete any portion of an assignment, report, project, experiment or exam for another student. Students may not claim as their own work any portion of an assignment, report, project, experiment or exam that was completed by another student, even with that other student’s knowledge and consent. Students may not provide information about an exam (or portions of an exam) to another student without the authorization of the instructor. Students may not seek or accept information provided about an exam (or portions of an exam) from another student without the authorization of the instructor. Violations of this standard constitute collusion.

- Students must adhere to the guidelines provided by their instructors for completing coursework. For example, students must only use materials approved by their instructor when completing an assignment or exam. Students may not present the same (or substantially the same) work for more than one course without obtaining approval from the instructor of each course. Students must adhere to all course reserves regulations, including library course reserves, which are designed to allow students access to all course materials. Students will not intentionally deny others free and open access to any materials reserved for a course. Violations of this standard constitute cheating.

Policy on intellectual property rights: Consistent with the University’s policy on intellectual property rights, it is the Psychology Department's policy that teaching and curricular materials (including but not limited to classroom lectures, syllabi, class notes, exams, handouts, and presentations) are the property of the instructor. Therefore, electronic recording and/or transmission of teaching and curricular materials is prohibited without the express written permission of the instructor.