

PSY 162: Neuropsychology

Course Syllabus

Lecture	MWF 1:20-2:30pm	Science Center 115
Lab A1	Th 2:15-4:00pm	Science Center 127
Lab A2	Th 10:00-11:45am	Science Center 127

COURSE INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Mary Saczawa

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Office Hours: T/Th 12:00 – 2:00pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an introduction to the field of neuropsychology, or the biological foundations of behavior. Throughout the course is an emphasis on developing and understanding of how biological processes contribute to and influence thought and behavior. This course is designed to be paired with Cognition and Perception (PSY164), and as such we will not go too in-depth into sensory processes, but we will review them in more detail than may have been covered in PSY111.

TEXTBOOK

Breedlove, S. M. & Watson, N. V. (2023) Behavioral Neuroscience, 10th edition. Oxford University Press.

Note: you do NOT need access to the enhanced EBook online materials. You may use a previous version of the textbook if need-be, but you are responsible for checking for any differences between editions including section numbers and updated content.

COURSE WEBPAGE

This course will rely heavily on material posted in Canvas (<https://hanover.instructure.com/courses/1374>) including written assignments, quizzes, and lecture slides. There is also a Q&A board where you can ask questions about concepts, assignments, or the course in general. You are also expected to check your Hanover email account regularly. Regardless of whether or not you read the emails, you are responsible for their content.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

EXAMS (35%)

This course will include four exams. Exams will include a mixture of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and short-answer questions and will cover material from the assigned text and lectures, even if they were not presented in both formats (so it is important for you to read the assigned readings **AND** to attend class).

RETRIEVAL PRACTICE ACTIVITIES (8%)

This course can be difficult, so it is vital that you come to class as prepared as possible. Each lecture has an assigned reading (see the detailed course schedule), and it is incredibly important that you read the assigned chapter BEFORE class. In order to encourage you to review the material before class, we will do brief “retrieval practice” activities before we get started each day. You cannot make up any missed activity points, but you can miss four days’ activities without it impacting your grade.

WEEKLY REVIEW QUIZZES (15%)

Despite extensive evidence supporting the value of distributed practice, students often take notes during class and do not look at them again until the day before the exam. In an effort to encourage you to at least glance at the notes again before the exam, you will have weekly quizzes that will assess your understanding of the material we covered in the previous week's classes. **These quizzes will take place on Canvas and will be open from Friday at 11:00am until Sunday at 11:59pm.** You are allowed to use your notes and textbook on these quizzes, but you are **NOT** allowed to get help from another person or to use AI. You can miss one weekly review quiz without penalty.

CRITICAL REACTION PAPER (10%)

The purpose of these assignments is to get you thinking critically about controversial topics in biological psychology and to help you learn to apply scholarly research to these questions. You will be provided with a list of topics, from which you will select one topic on which to write your paper. You will then take a position on the topic, using scholarly research articles to support your argument. Detailed instructions as well as possible topics will be posted in Canvas.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION (5%)

You will earn credit for participating in three research studies being conducted by faculty and students on campus. If you do not want to participate in research, or if you are under the age of 18, an alternate assignment will be available in Canvas for you to receive the research credits.

LABS (27%)

This course includes a laboratory activities that are designed to solidify your understanding of the concepts we cover in the lectures and to give you experience conducting research in neuroscience. Each lab will include a task you must complete as well as a written report to be submitted. Additional details about lab activities and reports will be available in Canvas.

GRADING SCALE

A = 100-95%; A- = 90-94%; B+ = 87-89%; B = 83-86%; B- = 80-82%; C+ = 77-79%; C = 73-76%; C- = 70-72%; D+ = 67-69%; D = 63-66%; D- = 60-62%; F = <60%

COURSE POLICIES

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Written assignments are due by 11:59pm the date listed. Extensions may be granted for College-approved reasons that include proper documentation. Extension requests should be made before the deadline or within 24 hours (for unexpected emergencies). Late assignments without an approved extension will be penalized 10% for each day late. *Assignments submitted more than one week after the deadline but before the last day of class will receive a 75% penalty.*

RESUBMISSION AND GRADE DISPUTES

I have found that the best way to get students to read the feedback I give them on assignments is to give them the chance to get some of the points back. For that reason, all written assignments can be resubmitted for a higher grade. They must be resubmitted within one week of the grade being posted, but they can be resubmitted an unlimited number of times until you get a perfect score (as long as it is returned within one week of each updated grade being posted). All resubmissions must be received before **5pm on Friday, December 5.**

If you want to dispute an exam question, you should write a short paragraph explaining the dispute and why your answer was correct, including page numbers and/or lecture slides that support your answer.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will not be taken in this class, but it is necessary for your success in this class. Exams will include concepts that were covered in class but that are not in the textbook, and attendance is required to earn retrieval practice points. If you miss class, you are expected to obtain notes from a classmate, but I am happy to meet with you to review any missed material.

MISSED EXAMS AND QUIZZES

Make-up exams will be offered only for excused absences, and requests should be made **as soon as possible**. If you know about an excused absence ahead of time (e.g. for a college-sponsored game or competition), you should plan to take the exam BEFORE the scheduled time. For unexpected emergencies, you should let me know within 12 hours of the scheduled exam. If your big toe falls off on the way to the exam, get to the hospital, and then send me a quick email or text saying you're in the hospital and that you'll follow up with me after you're released to reschedule your exam. If I have not heard from you within 12 hours of you missing an exam, I will assume it was an unexcused absence, and you're taking a zero on the exam or that you're experiencing locked-in syndrome and are having to communicate by blinking.

Weekly review quizzes can only be made up for valid reasons (e.g. severe illness, extended technical issues, etc.). If you know that you will be without internet access during the entire Friday-Sunday window, let me know so that we can make alternative arrangements. If your internet goes out suddenly Sunday night or you are otherwise unable to take the quiz, you should text me IMMEDIATELY (don't wait to talk to me the next day in class). If I do not hear from you *before* 11:59pm on Sunday night, you will receive a zero on the quiz.

STUDENTS IN DISTRESS

Your success in this course and throughout your college career depends heavily on your personal health and wellbeing. Stress is a common part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by unexpected life changes outside the classroom. Your other professors and I strongly encourage you to take care of yourself throughout the term before the demands of midterms and finals reach their peak. Before circumstances and conditions become overwhelming, please don't hesitate to speak with me about any difficulty you may be having that may affect your academic performance. Please know as well that there are several support services on campus available to assist you, as needed. You can make appointments with Health Services by calling x-6102. Appointments for Counseling Services can be made online at any time through [MyHanover](#).

AUTHORIZED MATERIALS FOR EXAMS, QUIZZES, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Because the quizzes and assignments for this course will be completed outside of the classroom, I want to make it crystal clear what materials are allowed.

- Weekly review quizzes: you may use your textbook, notes. You may not work with or get assistance from another person (either in person or online) or use the internet or generative AI.
- Written assignments: you may use any resources available, but your work must be your own. For instance, if you are working on one of the analysis paper assignments, you may ask the librarians to help you find an appropriate article or the Learning Center tutors to help you format the paper. You and a classmate may help each other to make sure you are doing APA format correctly, but you must complete the assignment on your own. If you are working with a classmate, I *strongly* recommend that you use different articles/topics so that there is no risk of overlap in your final product. You may use generative AI for help structuring your papers, but the actual content must come from your brain.

NOTE: this list is not exhaustive. If I missed a potential resource, you must consult me before using it or assume that it is not allowed.

HANOVER COLLEGE POLICIES

HONOR CODE

As stated in the Hanover College Principles, students, faculty, staff, and trustees of Hanover College seek to promote academic, personal, and moral growth within a safe, challenging, and responsive community. This includes a commitment to academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity have a broad impact on the College and will result in College review and action.

Academic dishonesty includes any action with the intent to deceive in order to obtain an unfair advantage, as well as any act of aiding and abetting academic dishonesty. Note that the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools without the direction or approval of the instructor may be considered academic dishonesty. The Hanover College statement on academic dishonesty may be found in the Catalog and in the Student Handbook. Any given instance of academic dishonesty is dealt with by the instructor of the course in which it occurs. All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the chair of the Student Academic Assistance Committee, and repeated instances of academic dishonesty will subject a student to additional penalties up to and including dismissal from the College as outlined in the College Catalog.

DISABILITIES

Hanover College offers accessibility services to students with documented physical, visual, hearing, learning, or psychiatric disabilities. Any Hanover student is eligible for special services or accommodations if: 1) The student self-identifies that he or she has a disability and needs accommodation; 2) The student provides appropriate and verifiable documentation of the disability; and 3) The student provides notification in a timely fashion. For accessibility services, [Email Accessibility Services](#) or call 812-866-6844. The Accessibility Services (AS) office is in the Gladish Center for Teaching and Learning on the first floor of Duggan Library.

NONDISCRIMINATION

Hanover College is committed to providing equal access to its educational programs, activities, and facilities to all otherwise qualified students without discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other category protected by applicable state or federal law. Anyone who observes or who is a victim of bias is encouraged to report incidents using the [online bias reporting forms](#). An Equal Opportunity employer, the College also affirms its commitment to nondiscrimination in its employment policies and practices. In compliance with Title IX (20 U.S.C Sec. 1681 et seq.) Hanover College prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. For student related disability discrimination concerns, contact the Gladish Center for Teaching and Learning at 812-866-6840. For other discrimination complaints, including any arising under Title IX, contact the Title IX Coordinator at 812-866-6740 or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator at 812-866-7097.

Date	Lecture Topics	Reading
25-Aug	Introduction	Chapter 1
27-Aug	Biological Research Methods	2.5, 3.4
29-Aug	Behavioral Research Methods	
1-Sep	Labor Day – No Class	
3-Sep	CNS & PNS	Chapter 2
5-Sep	CNS & PNS	Chapter 2
8-Sep	Functional Neuroanatomy	2.3 & 2.4
10-Sep	Functional Neuroanatomy	2.3 & 2.4
12-Sep	Neural Cells	2.1
15-Sep	Exam 1	
17-Sep	Neurophysiology & Action Potentials	3.1 & 3.2
19-Sep	Neurophysiology & Action Potentials	3.1 & 3.2
22-Sep	Neurotransmission	3.3
24-Sep	Faculty Work Day – No Class	
26-Sep	Psychopharmacology & Drugs	4.1-4.7
Sunday, September 28: Reference List Due		
29-Sep	Drugs	4.1-4.7
1-Oct	Neuroendocrinology & Stress	Chapter 5, 15.5
3-Oct	Neuroendocrinology & Stress	Chapter 5, 15.5
6-Oct	Fall Break – No Class	
8-Oct	Sex	12.5-12.7
10-Oct	Exam 2	
13-Oct	Biological Rhythms	14.1, 14.2
15-Oct	Sleep	14.3-14.6
17-Oct	Sleep	14.3-14.6
Sunday, October 19: Annotated Bibliography Due		
20-Oct	Movement	11.1-11.5
22-Oct	Genetics	Appendix A.1, 7.4
24-Oct	Development	Chapter 7
27-Oct	Development	Chapter 7
29-Oct	Plasticity	Chapter 7
31-Oct	Teratogens	
3-Nov	Exam 3	
5-Nov	Faculty Work Day – No Class	
7-Nov	Damage & Disease	2.4, 11.6, 19.1-19.3, 19.6
10-Nov	Damage & Disease	2.4, 11.6, 19.1-19.3, 19.6
12-Nov	Damage & Disease	2.4, 11.6, 19.1-19.3, 19.6
14-Nov	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Box 16.3, 19.5-19.6
Sunday, November 16: Critical Reaction Paper Due		
17-Nov	Executive Functioning	18.1-18.3
19-Nov	Emotions	15.1-15.4
21-Nov	Emotions	15.1-15.4
24-Nov	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
26-Nov	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
28-Nov	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
1-Dec	Mood Disorders	16.1-16.3
3-Dec	Anxiety Disorders	16.4
5-Dec	Schizophrenia	16.1
Dec 8-Dec 12	Final Exam	