



Psychology/Neuroscience 652-41 (Biopsychology Laboratory)

Spring 2007

Wed. 11-1

Stern 2021

Dr. Thomas Hebert; 3037 Stern; Phone: 862-8331; Email: thebert1@tulane.edu

Office Hours: Monday, Friday 10:00-11:30 AM and by appointment

Required Text: None

Course Description and Objectives: Biopsychology laboratory provides hands-on examinations of neuroanatomical structures and training in behavioral and neurobiological methods, experimental design, data collection and analysis, and preparation of research reports. These activities include identification and discussion of surface and sub-cortical neuroanatomical structures in actual specimens, discussions on ethics and responsible science, stereotaxic surgeries, behavioral and brain manipulations. The objective is for the student to obtain a better understanding of the content, methodology, techniques, analysis and reporting of data commonly used in biopsychology and neuroscience.

Evaluation/Grading: Your grade will be determined by the number of points you accrue based on a total of 200 points. The assignments and breakdown of points is presented below, and more information on the assignments will be provided in class.

| Activity/assignment | Relative percent | Points |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Practical Exam | 35% | 70 |
| Introduction/Methods | 15% | 30 |
| Results/Discussion | 15% | 30 |
| Lab Notebook | 15% | 30 |
| Completed Manuscript | 10% | 20 |
| ICC Analysis | 10% | 20 |
| | 100% | 200 |

Letter grades will be based on the total points you obtain from the assignments/quizzes. Of the total points possible, students that accrue 100-90% will be graded as A, 89-80% as B, 79-70% as C, 69-60% as D, and 59-0% as F. Plus and minus grades will be assigned based on the final class distribution. I reserve the right to curve the grading scale based on class performance or any unusual circumstances that may arise during the semester.

Attendance: Late arrivals will result in a 2 point reduction in your point total and an unexcused absence will result in a 10 point reduction of your point total.

Honor Code: This course strictly adheres to the standards of conduct set forth in the Tulane University Honor Code, which can be found here: <http://provost.tulane.edu/HonorCode.htm>
If you have concerns, it is better to ask questions before you begin as opposed to after the work is complete.

Special Instructional Needs: If you have any special needs or require accommodations by the Center for Educational Resources and Counseling (ERC), please bring this to my attention during the first week of the semester. Please bring all required paperwork to me no later than one week prior to an exam or assignment and note that accommodations do not apply retroactively (ERC policy).

Classroom Etiquette and Communications: Attendance is expected and required. Students should arrive on time and conduct themselves in a demeanor appropriate to an academic environment. Feel free to ask relevant questions during lab and the use of laptops is allowed as space permits. Students that are habitually late or disruptive will be counseled and may be asked to withdraw from the course. Turn off cell phones and beepers *prior* to class and do not speak on phones during class. To protect confidentiality, grades will not be ordinarily reported by email or telephone. Audio or video recording of lab activities is strictly prohibited. It is not possible to 'make-up' a missed lab exercise.

Extra Credit: Extra credit is not available except in the rarest of circumstances. To be considered for extra credit, a student must have shown sufficient prior involvement in the course and present a justification that I believe is viable and worthy of extra credit.

The Academic Experience: In regards to your time spent in college, my feelings are very similar to the quote below by the famous psychologist, William James. To a large extent, college is what you make of it. The more you put into it, the more you will receive from it. As someone who speaks from the experience of many years as a student, I urge you to give your best effort in this and all your courses. Please feel free to see me if you are having difficulty with this or any other course.

“Life is what you make it.” William James (1842-1910)

Tentative Biopsychology Laboratory Schedule

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>ACTIVITY</u> |
|-------------|--|
| January 17 | Introduction and Orientation Discussion of syllabus, assignments, lab safety, honor code |
| January 24 | Surface neuroanatomy & Cranial Nerves Gyri, Sulci, and Arteries |
| January 31 | Surface neuroanatomy & Cranial Nerves (cont.) Sub-cortical structures: basal ganglia and limbic system |
| February 7 | Sub-cortical structures: basal ganglia and limbic system (cont.) Sub-cortical structures: spinal cord: ascending/descending tracts |
| February 14 | Sub-cortical structures: spinal cord: ascending/descending tracts (cont.) Sub-cortical structures: optic radiations and ventricles |
| February 21 | Review Neuroanatomy |
| February 28 | Neuroanatomy Practical Exam (35%) |
| March 7 | Stereotaxic Methods Overview and Demonstration |
| March 14 | Stereotaxic Methods (cont.) Neuroanatomical Manipulation-Lesion Hippocampus |
| March 21 | Spring Break |
| March 28 | Behavioral Manipulation Social Transmission of Food Preference (STFP) - immediate test Introduction and Method Sections Due (15%) |
| April 4 | Behavioral Manipulation (cont.) Social Transmission of Food Preference (STFP) - delayed test |
| April 11 | Immunocytochemistry (ICC) Overview and discussion of methods/considerations |
| April 18 | Immunocytochemistry (cont.) Analysis of ICC Result and Discussion Sections Due (15%) |
| April 25 | Lab Notebook Due (15%) ICC Analysis Due (10%) |
| May 1 | Final Manuscript Due (10%) |