

SYLLABUS
PSY 3001:
Physiological and Neuropsychology Fall
2021

Faculty: Mitchell R. Spezzaferri, M.A.
Semester Units: 4
Schedule: **Wednesdays 4:30-7:00 pm**
Final Exam: Week 16, 12/13-17
Class meetings held online via [Zoom](#)
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Office hours: Mondays, 2:00-4:00 PM

PLNU Mission

Statement

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is molded and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course

Description

This course is a study of the anatomical and physiological bases of mental events and behavior. Since psychology is the result of biology, and behavior and cognition are the results of biological processes, by studying biological processes we are able to have a better understanding of the psychological phenomena produced. We begin with an introduction to the biological system most relevant to psychology, the nervous system. Using this knowledge we will explore several psychological phenomena, such as vision, movement, sleep, emotion, language, memory in terms of the underlying biology.

Program

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify basic tenants of psychology

Course Learning

Outcomes

1. Recognize, identify and explain fundamental principles and theories related to the field of biological psychology
2. Identify implications of the course material for understanding oneself and others from a functional perspective
3. Locate and summarize professional journal articles related to the field of biological psychology
4. Demonstrate skill in oral presentation of a biological/neuropsych topic
5. Apply concepts from the fields of biological psychology and neuropsychology

Textbooks

1. Kolb, B., & Whishaw, I. Q. (2015). *Fundamentals of human neuropsychology (Seventh)*. Worth Publishers, a Macmillan Education Imprint.
2. Sacks, O. (1995). *An anthropologist on mars: Seven paradoxical tales*. New York: Random House, Inc.
3. Additional articles that are assigned throughout the semester.

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 4-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 150 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously**, and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

Grading

A minimum of 50% is needed to pass the course. The final grade will be computed on the following basis:

1. 40% Exams (5) (lowest exam grade will be dropped)
2. 10% Attendance and participation (lowest 3 scores will be dropped)
3. 10% Online quizzes
4. 20% Discussion/questions (10) from Saks reading and cases studies
5. 10% Research Project
6. 10% Final Exam (open book, open note)

Point Loma Nazarene University: Psychology Department, Academic Guides

DEPARTMENT FACULTY NORMAL CURVE GUIDES

Z Score				
A	1.33	0.0918	9.2%	
A-	1	0.1587	6.7%	15.9%
B+	0.67	0.2514	9.3%	
B	0.33	0.3707	11.9%	
B-	0	0.5	12.9%	34.1%
C+	-0.33	0.6293	12.9%	
C	-1	0.8413	21.2%	
C-	-1.33	0.9082	6.7%	40.8%
D+	-1.67	0.9525	4.4%	
D	-2	0.9772	2.5%	
D-	-2.33	0.9901	1.3%	
F	<-2.33	1	1.0%	9.2%

Percentage Score		
A =	93-100%	
A -	90-92%	
B +	88-89%	
B	84-87%	
B -	80-83%	
C +	77-79%	
C	70-76%	
C -	65-69%	
D +	62-64%	
D	55-61%	
D -	50-54%	
F	49%	or below

The student will receive the **higher grade** between Z Score and Percentage Score grade calculations. A minimum of 50% is needed to pass the course.

Test Policies

If a student cannot take a test due to any circumstances the student needs to notify the professor prior to the examination (in person or by phone/email). Any missed exam will result in a **5% deduction** taken from the final grade of that exam (whether taken early or late).

Assignments

Lecture Response Questions

For each class period, you will have lecture content to view prior to class. With the links to the videos for the lecture, the content is response questions for you to answer. Some of the questions are listed in the assignment, while others are embedded within the videos themselves. You will be graded on (a) whether you answered/addressed all the questions asked, and (b) the level of effort/engagement displayed in your responses.

Online quizzes

You will be given an online quiz for each chapter of the book which will consist of 5 questions pulled from a test bank. You can take the quizzes as many times as you would like, but each time the questions will be pulled randomly from the test bank. Your highest score on a quiz will be kept as your final score.

An Anthropologist on Mars Discussion

For these assignments, you will be assigned a chapter (case study) to read in Oliver Sacks, *An Anthropologist on Mars*. When you get to synchronous class time, you will be broken up into groups to complete a series of questions based on the case studies. You will submit your group's responses to the questions on Canvas for grading.

Research Project

Students will pick a disorder to research and will create a video presentation. The video should contain information regarding: (1) the prevalence of the disorder, (2) the disorder clinical signs and symptoms (e.g., diagnostic symptoms and the typical age of onset), (3) underlying pathology of the disorder (specifying what underlying neurologic issue is causing the disorder and how that fits into the developmental period), (4) describe the typical neuropsychological (cognitive) deficit(s) associated with the disorder, (5) potential treatments and (6) reference list. The presentation should take 10 minutes.

The presentation must include:

- A minimum of FOUR references in APA format
 - TWO must be ORIGINAL papers from PubMed or PsychInfo (reviews OK, not just the abstracts!)
 - Appropriate sources may also include PsychInfo or PubMed (preferred!), government websites (.gov), or documents published by universities.
 - Newspaper articles, Wikipedia, about.com, or other websites that are not primary sources are not appropriate for this paper.
 - Ask me if you are unsure.
 - You may use your textbook, but it does NOT count as one of the four references
 - References should be used in a meaningful way, not just used to meet the minimum requirements of the assignment

Research Presentation Grading:

- Accuracy of Information (10 pts)
- Creativity/Originality of Presentation (5 pts)
- Clarity, organization, and communication skills of presentation (including quality of sources) (10 pts)
- Response to students' presentations (including quality of response) (5 pts)

Late Policy

Any missed or late assignments will result in a **5% deduction** taken from the final grade of that exam or assignment. These deductions occur one time for each exam or assignment and are not cumulative by the length of time. All late or missed work must be turned in by the last week of class **Friday by 11:59 pm**, prior to final exams to receive credit.

Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

Technology

In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphones speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student needs technological resources, please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your classwork.

Accommodations

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications, or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allow PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all the elements of their AP in that course.

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As stated in the university catalog, “Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one’s own when in reality they are the results of another person’s creativity and effort. Such acts include plagiarism, copying of class assignments, and copying or other fraudulent behavior on examinations. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course.” See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

FERPA Policy

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (each faculty member choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission, or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.). Also, in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the “Information Release” section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

Final Exam

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the Class Schedules site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved. In the rare case that a student is scheduled for more than three (3) final examinations on the same day, the student is authorized to contact each professor to work out an alternative time for one of those examinations. This professor needs to be contacted at least 2 weeks prior to finals for any and such arrangements.

Course Schedule

This syllabus is not a contract. It is designed to help you organize your study and meet the requirements of the course. Professor reserves the right to make changes from time to time.

Note: Given the hybrid and online modalities being used in the 2021-2022 academic year, the content of the course schedule and assignments will be posted in Canvas.

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Day	Assignment
1	8/30/21	M	Fall Semester Starts
1	9/1/21	W	Introduction to Course/Syllabus Kolb Ch. 1 Development of Neuropsychology
2	9/6/21	M	Kolb Ch. 3 Nervous System Organization <i>Quiz 1</i>
2	9/8/21	W	Kolb Ch. 4/5 Activity & Comm. Between Neurons
3	9/13/21	M	Kolb Ch. 8 Sensory Systems <i>Quiz 2</i>
3	9/15/21	W	Kolb Ch. 9 Motor Systems EXAM 1 (due Saturday, 9/18 by 11:59 PM)
4	9/20/21	M	Kolb Ch. 13 Occipital Lobes <i>Quiz 3</i>
4	9/22/21	W	Kolb Ch. 14 Parietal Lobes Sacks assigned reading
5	9/27/21	M	Kolb Ch. 15 Temporal Lobes <i>Quiz 4</i>
5	9/29/21	W	Kolb Ch. 16 Frontal Lobes Sacks assigned reading
6	10/4/21	M	Kolb Ch. 18 Learning and Memory <i>Quiz 5</i>
6	10/6/21	W	Kolb Ch. 19 Language EXAM 2 (due Saturday 10/9 by 11:59 PM)
7	10/11/21	M	Kolb Ch. 20.1 Emotion Processing Sacks assigned reading
7	10/13/21	W	Kolb Ch. 20.2 Social Cognitive Functioning
8	10/18/21	M	Kolb Ch. 21 Spatial Behavior <i>Quiz 6</i>
8	10/20/21	W	Kolb Ch. 22 Attention and Consciousness Sacks assigned reading
9	10/25/21	M	Kolb Ch. 23 Brain Development and Plasticity <i>Quiz 7</i>
9	10/27/21	W	Kolb Ch. 25 Plasticity, Recovery, and Rehab EXAM 3 (due Saturday, 10/30 by 11:59 PM)
10	11/1/21	M	Kolb Ch. 24 Neurodevelopmental Disorders <i>Quiz 8</i>
10	11/3/21	W	Kolb Ch. 26 Neurological Disorders Sacks assigned reading
11	11/8/21	M	Kolb Ch. 6 Drugs, Hormones, & Beh. <i>Quiz 9</i>
11	11/10/21	W	Kolb Ch. 27 Psychiatric and Related Disorders
12	11/15/21	M	Kolb Ch. 2 Research of Human Brain and Beh. <i>Submit peer-reviewed research article</i>
12	11/17/21	W	Kolb Ch. 7 Imaging the Brain's Activity EXAM 4 (due Saturday, 11/20 by 11:59 PM)
13	11/22/21	M/W	THANKSGIVING BREAK - No Class

14	11/29/21	M	Kolb Ch. 11 Cerebral Asymmetry <i>Quiz 10</i>
14	12/1/21	W	Kolb Ch. 12 Differences in Cerebral Organization Research Project Video Due
15	12/6/21	M	Kolb Ch. 28.1 Neuropsychological Assessment Research Project Responses Due
15	12/8/21	W	Kolb Ch. 28.1 Neuropsych Assessment continued EXAM 5 (due Friday, 12/10 by 11:59 PM)
16	12/13-17/21		FINAL EXAM