**University of Pittsburgh**

**Brain and Behavior**

**Fall 2019**

**Instructor:** Jamie L Pierson, PhD

Department of Neuroscience

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Phone: 513-432-5918

**Undergraduate TA:**

Email:

**Meeting location and times:**

Location: Langley Hall A221

Times: Monday 6:00-8:30pm

Instructor office hours: By appointment

**Textbook:**

Watson, N and Breedlove, S. The Mind’s Machine: Foundations of Brain and Behavior (Third Edition). 2019.

**Course description:** Introduction to basic research, methods and theories in neuroscience: brain mechanisms and consciousness, memory, thought, emotion, and stress. Basic neurophysiology and neuroanatomy, as well as nervous system-endocrine system integration are included.

*This course fulfills one Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Natural Science General Education Requirement (GER) as described for the GERs starting Fall 2018 (term 2191). That GER reads as follows:*

*Three Courses in the Natural Sciences*

*These will be courses that introduce students to scientific principles and concepts rather than offering a simple codification of facts in a discipline or a history of a discipline. The courses may be interdisciplinary, and no more than two courses may have the same primary departmental sponsor.*

**Exams:** There will be 3 exams and a final. Your lowest exam score will be dropped. You **MUST** take all exams on the date and time indicated on the schedule. If you miss an exam **FOR ANY REASON** you will receive zero credit for that exam. If class is cancelled by the University or the Instructor for some unforeseen reason (e.g., inclement weather) on the day of an exam, the exam will be held during the next class period.

**Policy on Make-up Exams:** Make-up exams **WILL NOT** be given. This is why your lowest exam grade will be dropped. If you miss more than one exam, one will be dropped and you will receive zero credit for the other missed exams.

**Class Points:** There will be points that are accumulated throughout the semester. These will be used as attendance/class participation. These points will be earned through the use of **TopHat**. Points will be earned for attendance as well as for answering questions in class correctly. You may use TopHat on your smartphone or laptop. If you do not have either of these devices see me before the end of the first class to discuss accommodations.

**Policy on Make-up Points:** Make-up points **WILL NOT** be given. I will drop one day worth of your lowest scores/lack of attendance.

**Grading:**

Grades will be assigned as followed:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Points** | **%** |
| Exam | 100 | 0 |
| Exam | 100 | 25 |
| Exam | 100 | 25 |
| Final | 100 | 25 |
| Class Points | 100 | 25 |
| **Total** | **400** | **100** |

Grades for any assignment and final grades will be earned according to the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A+ | 98-100% |
| A | 94-97% |
| A- | 90-93% |
| B+ | 87-89% |
| B | 84-86% |
| B- | 80-83% |
| C+ | 77-79% |
| C | 74-76% |
| C- | 70-73% |
| D+ | 67-69% |
| D | 64-66% |
| D- | 60-63% |
| F | 59% and below |

**Extra Credit:** There will be extra credit opportunities during the course of the class. They will range in point values and lengths. You may have the option of attending lectures and writing 2-3 page reaction papers with a short summary of the lecture followed by your thoughts on what was discussed. You may also read outside papers or watch outside videos and write 2-3 page papers with a short summary followed by your reaction. All extra credit must be approved **PRIOR** to turning it in. If you see interesting papers or lectures about neuroscience/biological psychology, please inform me, and we will see if it would be worth an extra credit opportunity.

**Attendance Policy:** Although attendance will not be recorded per se, you are expected to attend every class. If you miss a class, you should discuss the material with and/or ask for notes from another student currently taking the class. I will not send you materials on the information that you have missed nor will I meet with you to go over the lecture that you missed. If you have specific questions on the material AFTER you have obtained it from another student and gone over it, I will be happy to meet with you by appointment or through email.

**Students with disabilities:** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-383-3346 (Fax), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Personal Media Usage:** Laptops are permitted for use in class for note taking and TopHat only. Any student found to be using it for personal reason: Facebook, email, Twitter, Google, Wikipedia, etc, will be restricted from using the laptop in the future. These actions are very distracting to your neighbors, so please refrain from it. Cell phones are permitted for TopHat only.

**TopHat:** We will be using the interactive software TopHat for in class quizzes and class participation. This will account for a good portion of your grade. Please download and **register for TopHat by the second class**. Please let me know if you have any issues with this. You may have it on a laptop, smart phone, tablet, or regular cell phone (have to register once through a computer). THIS IS NOW FREE THROUGH PITT!

**Join Code: 032656**

**Academic Integrity Policy on cheating/plagiarism** : Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed. (For the full Academic Integrity policy, go to [www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.provost.pitt.edu%2Finfo%2Fai1.html&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cc6e857a9b35b4fe8491208d6091d8f94%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C636706419892960670&sdata=orQM%2BkFKDn97k9PAT0e%2FU68%2By9T6cplgFi0I8MQpyP4%3D&reserved=0).)

**E-mail Communication Policy** :

Each student is issued a University e-mail address ([username@pitt.edu](mailto:username@pitt.edu)) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their [pitt.edu](http://pitt.edu/) address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to [http://accounts.pitt.edu](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Faccounts.pitt.edu%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cc6e857a9b35b4fe8491208d6091d8f94%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C636706419892970666&sdata=zlkEs0xjme%2BQ1EBZpAtA1O3Upne9Dx65%2Fqv2%2FMD%2FBA4%3D&reserved=0), log into your account, click on **Edit Forwarding Addresses**, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to[www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bc.pitt.edu%2Fpolicies%2Fpolicy%2F09%2F09-10-01.html&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cc6e857a9b35b4fe8491208d6091d8f94%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C636706419892980680&sdata=YTw6TDt3nqsuOjxutjOEjew1wpQ2amuvsE5zd8fsf5E%3D&reserved=0).)

**Course Schedule/Topics**

***Subject to change***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Chapter** |
| **Week 1** | 8/26/19 | Syllabus and TopHat Introduction  An Introduction to Brain and Behavior |
| **Week 2** | 9/2/19 | **Labor Day: No Class** |
| **Week 3** | 9/9/19 | Cells and Structures |
| **Week 4** | 9/16/19 | Neurophysiology |
| **Week 5** | 9/23/19 | The Chemistry of Behavior |
| **Week 6** | 9/30/19 | **Exam 1**  The Sensorimotor System |
| **Week 7** | 10/7/19 | Hearing, Balance, Taste, and Smell |
| **Week 8** | 10/14/19 | Vision |
| **Week 9** | 10/21/19 | **Exam 2**  Hormones and Sex |
| **Week 10** | 10/28/19 | Homeostasis |
| **Week 11** | 11/4/19 | Biological Rhythms and Sleep |
| **Week 12** | 11/11/19 | Emotions, Aggression, and Stress |
| **Week 13** | 11/18/19 | **Exam 3**  Psychopathology |
| **Week 14** | 11/25/19 | Memory, Learning, and Development |
| **Week 15** | 12/2/19 | Attention and Higher Cognition/Language |
| **Week 16** | 12/9/19 | **Final Exam**: Same Room Same Time |

Other important dates:

September 6th: Fall add/drop period ends

September 13th: Fall extended drop period ends

October 25th: Fall term deadline to submit monitored withdrawal forms