

PSYS 160- INTRODUCTION TO BIOPSYCHOLOGY (WEB)

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This course will be taught entirely online (no zoom lectures)

Required Text: (Please read the following before purchasing anything for this course).

eBook: *Biopsychology, 10th edition*, by Pinel and Barnes

This course participates in The WKU Store “**First Day Access**” program which is designed to provide immediate access to all required materials for students at prices cheaper than any other option. As part of the program, the e-book will be pre-loaded on your BlackBoard account. It will cost approximately \$80 and includes all of the text, videos, demonstrations and practice quizzes. Students who stay enrolled in the course are also eligible to purchase an optional low-cost looseleaf copy of the textbook for an additional \$20. If you wish to pick up the shrink-wrapped copy of the text, you may do so at the WKU store. For more information on this program, go to The WKU Store’s website <http://customercare.bncollege.com/> and click the Day One Access link under the Course Materials header.

By participating in this program, The WKU Store will bill your Student Billing account, and you will see a charge appear under this Semester along with Tuition and Fees (“Account Summary by Term” under the Student Services tab) labeled as “The WKU Store Purchases” after the drop/add date. If you drop the course before this deadline (usually the end of the first week of classes), BlackBoard will no longer show you enrolled in the course, and you will not have to pay for the e-book.

Students who wish to opt-out of the “First Day Access” program (yet remain enrolled in the course) may do so. The deadline to opt-out is the same as the drop/add date. By opting out you agree to have your e-book access terminated on BlackBoard and you will be responsible to obtain the required textbook on your own. If you have purchased the looseleaf book from the WKU bookstore, you must return it unopened (still in original shrink wrap) in order to complete the opt-out process. This is the more expensive method in obtaining the text, and does not include the videos, demonstrations, practice quizzes, etc.

Other Requirements:

- **Blackboard (Bb)** will be used throughout the semester to access all materials, including quizzes, exams, and other assignments. Check Bb daily for updates and announcements. If this is your first online course, I advise taking the Blackboard student-user training tutorial. To get to the training tutorial go to the Blackboard student user training and click IT TRAINING.
- **Do not use Explorer as your browser- Blackboard often has trouble with it. Rather use Mozilla Firefox or Chrome (both are free to download).**
- **Do not use a Chromebook or tablet for quizzes or exams- it cannot support RESPONDUS which you need to take your quizzes and exams. I strongly advise**

taking your quizzes and exams in a campus computer lab if possible as they already have RESPONDUS loaded and are not wifi.

- If you encounter technical problems while taking a quiz or exam contact me via email (leslie.baylis@wku.edu) immediately. Note that “technical or computer” problems such as being dropped midway through a quiz or exam, **are not** normally an acceptable reason for failing to submit or complete a quiz or exam. Always use a direct high-speed and reliable internet connection (the computer labs on campus are set up for this). Technical support can be obtained through the WKU IT Department (<http://www.wku.edu/it/>) or 270-745-7000.

Course Description, Objectives & Outcomes:

PSYS 160 is an introductory course that fulfills a portion of WKU’s Colonnade program as an “Explorations” course in the Natural and Physical Sciences. Students will gain an understanding of psychological processes as explored through the contributions of molecular, cellular, physiological and evolutionary biology fields. Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of research ethics and methodology within biopsychology, including structural and functional analysis of biological and psychological systems and the impact of scientific and therapeutic intervention on thought and behavior.
2. Explain the basic principles involved in neurobiological development, sensory systems, influence of gene-environment interactions on behavior, the neuroscience of cognition, social and affective neuroscience, and biological etiologies of psychopathology.
3. Apply neuroscientific principles to investigate the role of biological systems underlying thought and behavior and to make predictions about the connections between behavior and molecular biology and physiology within the disciplines of psychology.
4. Explain the connection between normal/abnormal neuropsychological processes and normal/abnormal human cognitive and socioemotional functioning.

Course Grading:

There will be 4 exams and 12 quizzes as detailed in the course schedule. Exams will be on-line and consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Make-up exams will be given only for approved university excuses (illness with a doctor’s written excuse, death of close relative, university sponsored trip, etc.) and must be made up within one week from absence. Each exam will be worth 50 points for a total of 200 points. Each quiz will be on-line and must be completed within the time described on Blackboard. The best 10 (out of 12) quizzes will count towards the course grade for a possible total of 100 points. If you miss the deadline to take the quiz, it will count as 0 points and act as one of the dropped quizzes.

Exams must be completed by 9 PM on the stated exam date (always a Sunday). Quizzes are due by 11:00 PM on the stated quiz date (always a Friday). **You are expected to NOT use your book, notes, websites or help from other students for your exams and quizzes.** Evidence of cheating may result in a grade of “F” for the course.

Grades for the course are determined as shown below and are the result of the accumulation of exams, quizzes and extra-credit.

Grades for the course are determined as follows:

Number of Points:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| A 90-100% | 270-300 |
| B 80-89% | 240-269 |
| C 70-79% | 210-239 |
| D 60-69% | 180-209 |
| F | 179 and below |

Research Participation (Study Board):

Psychology is the science of behavior and therefore uses the scientific method of experimentation to determine the causes and attributes of behavior. The department of Psychology at WKU has a policy of requiring students to participate in experiments conducted in the department in order to help students learn both the process and value of experimentation, and to help graduate students and faculty in their research pursuits. Failure to meet the research requirements fully and on time will result in a grade of **Incomplete** for the course. (WKU policy is that an "X" automatically turns into an "F" unless removed within 12 weeks of the next full term.)

Students need to complete twelve (12) study board credits in order to have the appropriate letter grade assigned. These credits may be earned by any of the following means, in any combination: 1) The student may volunteer to serve as a research/study participant in an approved study being conducted by Western Kentucky University Psychology faculty. 2) The student may take quizzes over psychology research articles, which must be approved in advance by the Study Board Administrator (StudyBoard@WKU.edu).

An account on the Department's Experiment Management System (StudyBoard) (<http://www.wku.edu/psychological-sciences/studyboard/>) will be established for each student at the beginning of the semester. StudyBoard will automatically email each student with the login information. **This website handles all research scheduling and credit administration, not the Professor. Only credits for which you register online will count toward your research credit.** Credits are earned accordingly. Each quarter hour (15 minutes) of research participation is worth one (1) credit. The number of credits each experiment grants is shown on the StudyBoard sign-up page. There are studies listed on the website with credits that vary from one to eight or more. All StudyBoard experimental credits are due by the last day of class, but students should be aware that many other students are trying to get credit, and there tends to be a paucity of possible experiment sign-ups the last few weeks of the semester. To get these credits completed before the 3rd exam is highly recommended. Students interested in taking a quiz on an article can get details at the StudyBoard website.

Please note that if you think you cannot make a scheduled StudyBoard session that you have signed up for, you must contact StudyBoard as instructed on their web page. Please look at the Guidelines for StudyBoard at <http://www.wku.edu/psychological-sciences/studyboard/guidelines.php> for a complete description of policies.

Other Course Policies:

- Students should be familiar with the University policies on academic integrity and responsibility as outlined in the student handbook. Cheating on exams or any other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and students found cheating will be given an F in the course.
- In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center

located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Tips for success for in-class and online courses: I encourage your emails with comments, questions and concerns and will try to respond within a day. For all emails put PSYS 160 in the subject line and compose a professional respectful email. I am addressed as Dr. Baylis, and prefer to read full sentences without “messaging” types of slang. Carefully outline your email so that I may be able to respond to it carefully. If I think the email is unprofessional, I may return it to you unanswered with the comment to resubmit it when it is professionally written.

- Revel assignments (reading and quizzes found in your ebook): You are not required to complete all the in-text quizzes and assignments found in your ebook. However, you are required to complete the quizzes and exams I set for you as indicated in the course schedule. The in-text quizzes act as a study guide and practice as you learn the material.
- Track your performance throughout the semester. Contact me early if you are having problems and we can try to determine what to do about it before your grade is irreversibly affected.
- You may want to try listening to the audio while you read. Many students have told me this helps.
- Research shows that many of us think we are good multi-taskers but in reality, we’re not. You may use your laptop in class for taking notes, however surfing tends to distract the user and everyone around them so only note taking is allowed while using your laptop. If I see you using your laptop or phone for non-class work, I will take it immediately and you can pick it back up at the end of the class. Though it seems rather strict, this has been the only way I have found to keep students from distracting themselves and others during class.
- Students must be sure to turn off or silence all cell phones. Texting during class is not only disruptive to the student and others nearby, but is inappropriate during lectures. Students who continue to fail to turn them off, or to text, talk, listen to music etc., will be liable for disciplinary action and dropped from the course.
- No headphones during class lectures.
- Students who enter class late, or plan to leave early, are required to sit in the back of the classroom (close to the door) in order to avoid disrupting the ongoing class. Please inform me at the beginning of class if you plan to leave early.
- “Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU’s Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.”

HAVE A GOOD SEMESTER!