

Course Syllabus
Mind, Brain, and Behavior - S1010D
Sec. 1: MW 5:30 - 8:40pm

Instructor: Kathleen M. Taylor, Ph.D.

Office Hours: By Appointment

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About this course:

This course is designed to introduce you to the brain and how we use it to think about our world. We will be examining the function of the brain from the cellular level up to the "whole brain" by examining several types of research. By understanding how the brain functions, cognitive neuroscientists hope to examine the mystery of human thought processes, and ultimately the biology of conscious thought and awareness. This course satisfies the Core Curriculum Science Requirement, and is appropriate for non-science majors. We will be dealing with biology, chemistry and physics, but will approach it from a basic level so that all can participate.

Required Readings:

The text for this course is *Purves, et.al., (2008) Principles of Cognitive Neuroscience; Sinauer Associates*. The text is available at the Columbia University Bookstore, or can be purchased online from the publisher or other online sellers. This text has been used in previous semesters, so used copies may be available. There will be supplemental readings distributed in class and available on Courseworks. You should have your copy of the text no later than May 30.

Grading, Attendance and Course Requirements:

There will be 3 quizzes and 2 exams. The quizzes cover a smaller amount of material, and take up to 30 minutes to complete, while the exams are significantly longer. I strongly encourage you to make use of the lecture outlines and study guides posted on in preparation for exams and quizzes, as well as the companion website provided by the publisher (www.sinauer.com/cogneuro). Exams and quizzes will cover class notes, text, and supplemental readings. Course grades are determined as follows:

Quizzes - 10% each; Midterm Exam - 30%; Final Exam - 40%

Due to the intensive nature of a summer course, you should attend every class and keep up with the assigned readings. If you fall behind, it will be almost impossible to catch up. The material in the text will be supplemented in the lecture, and the exams will reflect information from class notes that may not be included in the text. Lecture outlines will be available before each class as a skeleton of the topic, but should not be a replacement attending the lecture. Weekly study guides will be posted to help you organize the material and your study time. Make-up examinations will only be allowed in the event of a documented emergency and must be completed before the next class. If you need extra time for exams or quizzes you must have all approvals completed before the first quiz. If you find you are struggling, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible so we can try to find a solution together.

Preliminary Course Outline

Date	Topics	Text Chapters:
Wed, May 28	Course Introduction, Principles of cognition; Basics of Neural Function	1, 2, 3
Fri, May 30	Nervous System Functions, Neuroanatomy; Development; Sensory Systems	1, Appendix, 26, 4
Mon, June 02	Quiz #1, Perception	5, 6, 7
Wed, June 04	Perception Con't.; Motor Processes	8,9
Mon, June 09	Quiz#2; Attention	10, 11
Wed, June 11	Attention (con't); Memory	12, 13, 14
Mon, June 16	Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-12, 26 and Appendix) Memory	15, 16
Wed, June 18	Emotion; Social cognition	17, 18, 19
Mon, June 23	Quiz#3; Language; Time; Number	20, 21, 22
Wed, June 25	Executive Processing; Decision making; Reasoning	23, 24, 25
Mon, June 30	Evolution; Consciousness	27, 28
Wed, July 02	Final Exam (Chapters 12-28)	

* Changes to this schedule will be announced in class