

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Lora A.

Becker, Ph.D.

Office: Hyde Hall 208

Office phone: 488-2532

Office hours: I can be reached at my office during the hours of 10 - 10:50 Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:50 - 12:50, Tuesday, Thursday, 1:00 - 2:50 Monday and 1:00 - 3:50 Wednesday.

Others times are available by appointment.

E-mail: LB47@evansville.edu

**I answer e-mail between 6am and 4pm on weekdays. You will get a reply within 24 hours during the weekday. I will answer all weekend e-mail by 9 am on the following Monday. All e-mail policies do not apply during holidays.*

COURSE DETAILS

REQUIRED TEXT: Kalat, J. W. (2016). *Biological Psychology* (12th ed.). United States: Wadsworth Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-305-10879-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION: NEUR/PSYC 125 covers organization and function of the human brain and nervous system – how we sense, move, feel and think. NEUR/PSYC 125 details the operation of neurons, nervous system organization, sensation, movement and human behavior, including mood, emotion, sleep, learning, memory, language and attention. The instructor assumes that students taking the course have minimal prior knowledge of biology, physics and chemistry.

- **COGNITIVE SCIENCE MAJOR REQUIREMENT:** This course is one of the core requirements for the bachelors of Science degree in Cognitive Science.
- **NEUROSCIENCE MAJOR REQUIREMENT:** This course is one of the core requirements for the bachelors of Science degree in Neuroscience.
- **PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR REQUIREMENT:** This course is one of the core requirements for the bachelors of Science or bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology. "Psychology majors must achieve a C- grade or higher in all psychology courses that apply to the major."

CREDIT HOUR POLICY:

This course is worth 3 credit hours and as such has four sessions of class per week lasting two hours each and requires more than two hours of homework outside of class per day. In total, this class complies with the University of Evansville Credit Hour Policy wherein a three credit hour course requires 15 hours of in-class hours plus an expected 30 hours of out-of-class work per credit hour.

NOTICE: Material and dates listed in this syllabus may be changed if the instructor and students agree that the change is in the best interest of the students.

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Catalog years Fall 2013 - 2015: SCIENTIFIC LITERACY

This course meets the criteria for the general education quantitative literacy outcome 8: Scientific Literacy. The course provides factual knowledge, Fundamental Concepts and Theories, Scientific Reasoning and Context, Relationships and Applications of Neuroscience.

Catalog years prior to Fall 2013: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Courses in this category address the unique features of science and technology. In the sciences, there is study of the natural world, including observation, quantification, organization and validation of hypotheses. Technology offerings focus on the application of scientific principles to production of devices, structures, processes and systems to meet society's wants and needs. As a component of the General Education Program, courses in Science and Technology include technique, a scientific writing component and consideration of the roots and applications of the discipline.

Outcomes

- Experience in the practice of science (empirical and/or computational)
- Understanding of and enthusiasm about the natural world
- Ability to evaluate data and claims based on data
- Ability to evaluate the implications of scientific and technological advances on society
- Understanding of how common devices and processes work

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Class attendance is monitored daily through in-class assignments that are worth 15% of your class grade. An 'F' will be given if more than 30% of the class days are missed (8). Whenever possible, excuses should be presented BEFORE class is missed. Assignments can be made-up by participating in extra-credit opportunities other than those used for class extra credit. Dr. Becker must approve all dates you are allowed to make-up. University of Evansville excused absences will be honored, however, excessive absences from the class, more than 30%, will result in failing the course, even if the majority of the excuses are allowed. Students are responsible for obtaining material that they miss.

SEMESTER EXAMS: Seven semester exams will cover topics discussed during lecture and the corresponding book sections. Question format will be multiple-choice. Each exam will be worth 50 points. Arrangements can be made to take the exam in advance of the exam date. The lowest exam will be dropped from final grade calculation, which can be a missed exam or the last (final) exam. The last exam will be held during finals week on **Tuesday, December 17**. Exams are worth 65% of your total class grade.

CRICK LECTURE ATTENDANCE: You are required to attend **ONE** of the two Crick Lectures. Please be sure to sign in at the lecture. If you have difficulty attending the lecture due to work or another class, please be sure to talk to be before the Crick Lecture. Failure to attend one of the lectures will result in an 'F' for 5% of

NOTICE: Material and dates listed in this syllabus may be changed if the instructor and students agree that the change is in the best interest of the students.

the class grade. Lectures are scheduled on **Wed., Sept. 11 and Wed., Nov. 13** in KC 100 from 4:00 – 4:59 p.m.

ESSAYS: Two 1000-1500 word single spaced essays are due this semester and are 10% of the class grade. Submit your essay by uploading them into the properly named assignment in LiveText. If you are a Senior, you may not have a LiveText account. In this case, upload your papers to the properly named Bblearn assignment link. **Do not submit your papers to BOTH LiveText and Bblearn! Failure to complete the essays will result in an “F” in the course.**

- 1) **Animals in Research** Write your opinion, backed with evidence, concerning your take on the use of animals as test subjects for *neuroscience research*. You will be graded on the logic of your argument, not on your conclusion. Due October 1
- 2) **Topic within Neuroscience** Write an essay summarizing a topic of Neuroscience that interests you or can be applied to your career goals. What implications could these findings have on humanity? What else do we need to know about this topic? Due November 1

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is defined as *the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own* in the [Oxford English Dictionary](#).

Below is information posted on the UE Library website;

[The Cite is Right](#)

[The Plagiarism Court](#)

[You Quote It, You Note It!](#)

[What is Plagiarism?](#)

UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

"I understand that any work which I submit for course credit will imply that I have adhered to the Academic Honor Code: I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid nor will I tolerate an environment which condones the use of unauthorized aid."

Failure to honor this code will result in an Honor Code hearing and a possible sanction of removal from the University. Memorizing only the questions and their associated answers (like what is found on Quizlet.com) without the ability to explain the course material is considered 'unauthorized aid' in this class.

GRADE CALCULATION

$$(((\text{SUM of 6 best exams})/300)*0.70) + (((\text{SUM of 2 Essays})/10) *0.15) + ((\text{Crick Lecture}/5) *0.05) + ((\text{Attendance}/41) *0.10))$$

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

95 – 100	A	83 – 86	B	73 – 76	C	60 – 66	D
90 – 94	A-	80 – 82	B-	70 – 72	C-	0 – 59	F
87 – 89	B+	77 – 79	C+	67 – 69	D+		

Course Calendar:

Date	Topic (Kalat chapter)	8/31	Genetics and Behavior (1)
8/28	Introduction to Neuroscience (1) Discuss Syllabus Biological approach to Behavior	9/1	LAST DAY TO REGISTER/ADD
		9/2	Structure of the Nervous System (4)

NOTICE: Material and dates listed in this syllabus may be changed if the instructor and students agree that the change is in the best interest of the students.

9/4	Cerebral Cortex (4) Research Methods (4)	10/26	Sex & Hormones (11)
9/7	Monday Exam 1 (1, 4)	10/28	Variations in Sex Behavior (11)
9/10	Crick Lecture 4- 4:50 p.m. KC100	10/30	Review/Catch-up Day
9/9	Cells of the Nervous System (2)	11/1	post ESSAY 2 to Bblearn & LiveText by 11:00 p.m.
9/11	Nerve Impulse (2)	11/2	Monday Exam 5 (10, 11)
9/14	Concept of the Synapse (3)	11/4	Learning, Memory (13)
9/16	Chemical Events @Synapse (3)	11/6	Functioning & storing info (13)
9/18	Drugs, & Addictions (3)	11/9	Lateralization & function, Evolution & Physiology of Language (14)
9/21	Monday Exam 2 (2, 3)	11/11	Consciousness & Unconscious Processes & Attention (14)
9/23	Visual Coding (6)	11/12	Crick Lecture 4-4:55p.m. KC100
9/25	Processing Visual Info (6)	11/13	Review/Catch-up Day
9/28	Audition (7)	Last day to drop a class with a "W"	
9/30	Mechanical Senses & Chemical Senses (7)	11/16	Friday Exam 6 (13, 14)
10/1	post ESSAY 1 to LiveText & Bblearn by 11:00 p.m.	11/18	Development of the Brain (5)
10/2	Review/Catch-up Day	11/20	Plasticity of the Brain (5)
10/5	Monday Exam 3 (6, 7)	11/23	What is Emotion? (12)
10/7	Control of Movement (8)	11/25–11/29	Thanksgiving Break
10/9	Mechanism of Movement (8)	11/30	Attack & Escape behaviors, Stress & Health (12)
10/10–10/13	Fall Break	12/2	Mood Disorders (15)
10/14	Rhythms of Waking, Sleeping & Sleep Disorders (9)	12/4	Schizophrenia (15)
10/16	Wakefulness & Arousal, Why Sleep? Why Dream? (9)	12/7	Review/Catch-up Day
Date	Topic (Kalat chapter)	12/9	Reading /Study Day
10/19	Monday Exam 4 (8, 9)	12/16	Exam 7 (5, 12, 15) 8am SB 162
10/21	Temp., Regulation, Thirst (10)		
10/23	Hunger (10)		

DROPPING A COURSE: A course may be dropped without a designated grade through the last day to register or add a course (see below for exact dates). From that date through the 11th week, a grade of W is assigned. After the 11th week, a grade of F is assigned. Discontinuance of attendance does not automatically constitute a withdrawal. Students failing to file a proper drop/add form by the appropriate deadline must complete classes for which they are registered or receive a grade of F.

NOTICE: Material and dates listed in this syllabus may be changed if the instructor and students agree that the change is in the best interest of the students.

Last day to drop without a grade for Fall 2015 is Monday, September 1.

Last day to drop and receive a 'W' for Fall 2015 is Friday, November 13.

INCOMPLETE GRADE: All course work is to be completed within the semester it is attempted. If an emergency prevents a student from completing some portion of the required assignments, an instructor may give an 'I' or incomplete grade only if the following circumstances are met:

1. The student's other work in the course would earn a passing grade.
2. The outstanding task can be completed without further class attendance.

Outstanding course work normally should be completed within six weeks of the class ending, but the instructor may allow up to one year from the end of the term for which the 'I' grade is granted. It is the student's responsibility to have this deficiency removed within the agreed-upon period or within one year, whichever is less. (Registering for a course a second time does not remove an incomplete grade.) If the instructor has not submitted a grade change after the grace period, the registrar is authorized to change all grades of 'I' to 'F'.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: It is the policy of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification to faculty from the Office of Counseling and Health Education is required for any academic accommodations. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow two-week notice. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be received on a timely basis. If you have questions about services for students with disabilities or procedures for requesting services, you may contact the Office of Counseling and Health Education at 488-2663.

NOTICE: Material and dates listed in this syllabus may be changed if the instructor and students agree that the change is in the best interest of the students.