

# Brain, Mind and Behavior (PSYC 180) Spring 2018

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Office hours of Kreiss and preceptors are posted on Moodle

**A. Lectures will be presented** in room 250 of Olin-Rice on Mon, Wed, & Fri from 12 – 1 pm

## **B. Course Description and Objectives:**

This course is designed to introduce you to our current understanding of the biological basis of behavior, thoughts, and feelings. In the first section of the course, we will examine the function and organization of the human nervous system at the molecular, cellular, and circuit levels. During the second section, we will explore how the nervous system detects/processes physical stimuli (e.g. touch, pain, sound), how movement is initiated and controlled, and the pathways mediating these processes. The final third of the course will address complex brain functions – including cognition, memory and learning, motivation, emotions, anxiety, and depression.

**A lot of material** will be covered in this course, so it will be necessary to pace yourself in terms of reviewing lecture and textbook material. Information not included in the textbook and not posted on Moodle will be presented and discussed during lectures, thus **attending class is essential** to maximizing your learning and performing well on the exams. You will find it helpful to review your lecture notes and read the textbook on a regular basis after class (not just before exams) so that you will be able to clarify what went on in class and remember more of the material. This is a hard class to "cram" for, trust me.

**PLEASE** ask questions as they help me pinpoint areas that are confusing, stimulate discussion, draw attention to areas that need to be covered further, and are likely to bring up topics that others have questions about as well.

## **C. Expectations for Lecture Notes, Reading Assignments, and Moodle:**

Moodle Website. Check this site frequently as I will use it to communicate details about upcoming quizzes/exams and to post required readings, powerpoint presentations, lecture notes, images, interesting resource links, and video clips. As mentioned above, I will present information during classtime that is not found on Moodle or in the textbook, thus attending class is essential for performing well on the exams. It is best to take 15 min prior to class to skim the powerpoint/lecture notes and then, within 36 hours after class, to more carefully go back through the powerpoint and integrate your notes from the class presentation and the reading. Most students find it helpful to create their own outline or summary of each lecture.

Assigned Readings and Watchings. I strongly believe that reading and/or watching an alternative presentation of the concepts will enable you to get the most out of this course. All assignments will be posted on Moodle. Readings for a date should be *skimmed* before class and then read *more carefully* after the lecture presentation (ideally within 2 days). The required textbook for this course is *The Mind's Machine* by Watson and Breedlove (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

## **D. Grading: will be based on a total of 500 pts**

	<u>pts</u>	<u>% of grade</u>
Semester Exam I, II and III (each 90 pts)	270 pts	54 %
Cumulative FINAL Exam	120 pts	24 %
Prepared Answers to Review Questions posted on Moodle	38 pts	8 %
Best 12 of 14 quizzes (each 6 pts, lowest 2 quiz scores dropped)	72 pts	14 %

**E. Make-up Exam Policy:** Since your lowest 2 quizzes will be dropped, there will be no make-up quizzes. It is far easier for both you and me if no exams are missed. However, if it is absolutely necessary to make up an exam due to illness or serious family emergency, you must obtain approval from me. Do not schedule travel plans for exam dates.

**F. Notice to Students with Disabilities.** Both Macalester and I want to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students need to request accommodations formally through Assistant Dean of Students Allie Quinn ([aquinn2@macalester.edu](mailto:aquinn2@macalester.edu), 696-6874) and schedule a meeting with me to discuss accommodations. Accommodations for test-taking must be arranged with me at least a week before the date of the quiz, exam, or final. (info at <http://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/>)