

PSB4002 (U02) – Introduction to Biopsychology
FIU – Department of Psychology

PREREQUISITES and COREQUISITE

You **must** have already taken Introduction to Psychology (PSY2020).

CLASS MEETINGS – LECTURE

U02: Mon/Wed 5:00 – 6:15pm (VH131)

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Eliza Nelson

Office Hours: Wed 10:30 – 12:30 pm
or by appointment (DM 276)

Email: elnelson@fiu.edu

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

Sandy Gonzalez

Office Hours: T 2:00 – 3:00 pm/ R 11:00 – 12:00 pm
or by appointment (DM 248)

Email: sgonz219@fiu.edu

NOTE: For a timely reply, email us directly. Do not send a message via Blackboard.

COURSE GOALS

Throughout this course, we will explore the question *why should psychologists be interested in biology?* We will study the basics of the nervous system, particularly how neurons work, how the brain is structured, and the role of the brain in behavior. Topics include sensory systems, movement, learning and memory, emotion and stress, drugs and addiction, and cognition.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Describe and explain how the nervous system works
- Appreciate the reciprocal relationship between biology and psychology
- Understand typical and atypical brain-behavior relationships

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- *Biological Psychology*, Toates (2011; 3rd edition)
- *Top Hat* (\$20 for 1-semester subscription/\$38 for 5-year subscription; **see handout**).
✓ BYOD (bring your own device): Top Hat works on any phone, tablet, or laptop.

GRADING

Top Hat	10%	Unannounced {Quizzes/Attendance}
Exam 1	30%	February 5 th
Exam 2	30%	March 17 th
Exam 3	30%	April 16 th

Optional Cumulative Final

Replaces lowest exam score

April 21st 5-7 pm

The only extra credit offered is bonus questions on exams. Regular exams are not cumulative

LETTER GRADE CONVERSION

A: 94-100%	A-: 90-93%	B+: 87-89%	B: 83-86%	B-: 80-82%	
C+: 77-79%	C: 73-76%	C-: 70-72%	D+: 67-69%	D: 60-66	F: 59 & below

To calculate your grade, divide your total by 500. You must earn a 'C' or better for the major.

NON-CUMMULATIVE EXAMS: There are 3 in-class exams (150 points each; 30% of final grade) throughout the semester. *Any material covered during the dates for each exam is fair game including, but not limited to, readings, slides, videos, and guest lectures.* The format for exams may include multiple choice, matching, true or false, short answer, or interpreting original data (i.e., figures and tables). **I will test material covered only in class. Attendance is essential.**

TOP HAT: See separate handout on how to create an account and troubleshooting. You must contact Top Hat support for any technical issues. Do not contact Dr. Nelson or Sandy (the TA). Top Hat will be used to record attendance only (check-in) some days, while other days there will be pop questions throughout class. For these questions, you will get .50 credit for answering and .50 credit for correctness. It is imperative that you do the assigned readings and be an active learner in the classroom to do well on this component of the course. I reserve the right to pose a question to the class at any time. You may not make-up questions if you arrive late or leave class early, unless you have a documented emergency.

MAKE-UP POLICY: Make-up work is only permitted for excused absences with documentation. This includes, but is not limited to, doctor's excuses (for yourself or immediate relatives), athletic events, FIU-related scholarly events (e.g., conference), a death in the family, religious observances, or auto accident. Work-related excuses will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Approved work-related excuses are one-time absences, not regular occurrences. **Please do not take this class if it conflicts with your work schedule.** Also, keep in mind that documentation must be dated for the lecture or exam that you missed. As soon as you are able, contact Dr. Nelson directly by email to discuss your situation. We will do our best to accommodate you.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any instance of academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, cheating, collusion, dishonesty) will be reported to the University and Department of Psychology for further action. Please refer to your student handbook, or ask me if you are unsure about what constitutes misconduct. Details can also be found at this website: https://ugrad.fiu.edu/academic_misconduct/

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS:

Disability students must submit DRC paperwork in the first week of class for accommodations: drc.fiu.edu/students

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Please be respectful of class time and of your peers. Kindly refrain from talking, texting, or using technology for non-class related activities. If you are disruptive, we reserve the right to ask you to leave. Arriving late and leaving early is distracting for everyone; please don't do it.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Subject to change. All readings are due on the date indicated. Slides will be posted before class. Exam dates are fixed. Exams will include any material covered prior to the exam date. Please plan ahead to be in class on exam days: **February 5th, March 17th, and April 16th.**

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Due</u>	
01/06: Welcome		
01/08: Introduction	Ch. 1	
01/13: The nervous and endocrine systems	Ch. 3	
01/15: The nervous and endocrine systems		
01/20: NO CLASS – MLK DAY		
01/22: How the cells of the nervous system work	Ch. 4	
01/27: The brain: basics of structure and role	Ch. 5	
01/29: The brain: basics of structure and role		
02/03: The brain: basics of structure and role		
02/05: EXAM 1		
02/10: Development and plasticity	Ch. 6	(start to pp. 166)
02/12: Development and plasticity		(pp. 170 to end)
02/17: Vision	Ch. 8	
02/19: Vision		
02/24: The other sensory systems	Ch. 9	
02/26: The other sensory systems		
03/03: The control of movement	Ch. 10	
03/05: CLASS CANCELED		
03/10: NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK		
03/12: NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK		
03/17: EXAM 2		
03/19: Learning and memory	Ch. 11	
03/24: Learning and memory		
03/26: Emotion, stress and coping	Ch. 12	
03/31: Emotion, stress and coping	Ch. 13	
04/02: Drugs and addiction: when things go wrong	Ch. 18	
04/07: Drugs and addiction: when things go wrong	Ch. 22	
04/09: Cognition and action	Ch. 20	
04/14: Cognition and action		
04/16: EXAM 3		

04/21: OPTIONAL CUMULATIVE FINAL**VH131 @ 5-7 pm**

*Note: the class voted on Feb. 24th to have an optional cumulative final. This exam will cover material from all 3 regular exams. If you attempt it and do well, your score will replace your lowest exam score. If you attempt it and do worse than all of your previous exam scores, you will not be penalized. If you are happy with your exam scores, you do not have to take the final.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TOP HAT

- The course number does not change. Save it to your phone as a contact for easy access.
- The course URL does not change. Bookmark it for easy access.
- **You must contact Top Hat directly for any support issues, including missing credit.**

Click: “Support” at the bottom of your screen (in browser or app)

Email: support@tophatmonocle.com

Call: 1-888-663-5491

Access Course

Course SMS Response Number



Using a mobile phone? You can text your responses here:

+1 (315) 636-0905

Course URL



Using a browser? Here's the course URL:

tophat.com/e/126980

Course Code

Mobile Apps



Using a smartphone? Download a mobile app



- A [detailed guide](#) to registering for Top Hat, submitting responses, and checking grades can be downloaded from Blackboard.
- Top Hat is a flexible system. You can text one day, use your laptop another day, or use your smartphone/tablet another day. Just don't forget to bring your own device!