Brain and Behavior-PSY 201H-20060 Syllabus

# Course Overview

# Required Text:

Instructor

Dr. Vollaro

**Phone**

631-451-4367

**Email**

vollarj@sunysuffolk.edu

**Class Time**

8:00am-9:15am MW

**Class Location**

H 226

**Office Location**

Southampton, 213

**Office Hours**

Monday & Wednesday, 7:30am-8:00am,

Tuesday 8:30am- 9:30am, 1:45-2:45pm & Thursday 1:45pm- 2:45pm. Also, by appointment

Brain and Behavior, A Cognitive Neuroscience Perspective, David

Eagelman & Jonathan Downar

Brain and Behavior, Revisiting the Classic Studies, edited by Bryan Kolb, Ian Whishaw.

**Website:** <http://www.josephvollarophd.com/>

# Course Objectives-Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the biological basis for behavior using the scientific process.
2. Explain the physiological background of motivation, theories of learning, thinking, behavior genetics, theories of personality and psychopathology.
3. Articulate recent psychological research and developments in brain and behavior.

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**Course Policies:**

1. Class begins promptly at 8:00 am. Please be seated and quiet at this time.
2. **ALL CELL PHONES SHOULD BE TURNED OFF AND REMOVED FROM SIGHT!!!!- NO TEXTING DURING CLASS!**

* **IF THERE IS A NEED TO TEXT, PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL AND LEAVE THE CLASSROOM**
* **3 Strike Rule: If you are asked to remove your cell phone during class time 3 times you will be asked to hand in your phone before being admitted to class**

1. The course is designed to be an interactive course. Your experience and learning will be dramatically enhanced by utilizing the additional materials designed to assist you in further exploring the covered topics. These include:

* **Power-Point** slides corresponding to class lectures can be obtained off my website (josephvollarophd.com)
* There are additional course materials (i.e. homework videos) and links to sites that will be helpful during the course.
* **Psychology blog:** Throughout the semester, additional information and communication will be accomplished through the Psychology Blog on the website. You are encouraged to check it at a minimum weekly throughout the semester. If you join the blog, the information will be emailed to you directly each time the blog is updated. If the information is specific to this class, it will be noted in the blog content.

1. **EXAMS:**

* The general course policy is that students take all exams as scheduled. If an exam is missed, there will be **ONE** makeup exam given. The makeup exam will be given week before the final exam. It is the students’ responsibility to contact me to schedule the makeup. ***If the exam is not made up before the final a 0 will be assigned for the grade.***
* Only ***ONE MAKEUP QUIZ*** is allowed. Quiz 1 & 2 must be made up before the mid-term exam. Quiz 3 and 4 must be made up by ***May 7th***. ***Any missed quizzes that are not made up will be assigned a grade of 0.***
* Once a student leaves the exam room, the exam is officially closed, and an exam cannot be initiated
* Students are required to bring a **#2** pencil to the exam
* If a scantron is not able to be graded by the machine **a 15-point penalty is assigned**

1. **ATTENDANCE:**

* The college defines excessive absence or lateness as more than the equivalent of missing more than one week of class during the semester. An instructor may remove a student, at any time, when, in the judgment of the professor, absences have been excessive.
* The policy for this course is to decrease **final average** 2 points for every absence over 3 for the semester
* **Lateness:** Students are expected to arrive to class on time. For the purposes of attendance, two lateness’s count as one absence.

1. **GRADING:** There will be two exams given during the semester; each one of these exams will count as 25% of your grade. There will be 4 quizzes and these will be averaged together and the average will count as 25% of your grade. The writing assignment will count as the final 25% of your grade.

* Note: Scantrons & Papers will be returned to students after exams are graded. It is students’ responsibility to keep them as a permanent record in the event that there is a discrepancy in the final grade. If a student does not retain a copy of the graded work, the missing grade will be counted as a 0.

1. **The following grading scale will be used:**

* A = 90-100
* B+= 85-89
* B = 80-84
* C+= 75-79
* C = 70-74
* D+= 65-69
* F = Below 60

1. **PLAGIARISM/CHEATING:** The Suffolk Community College Code of Conduct expressively prohibits “all forms of academic or other dishonesty.” Two forms of dishonesty are cheating and plagiarism.

* **Cheating:** Any form of cheating, be it on a formal examination, informal quiz, or other submitted material, is a violation of the college code of conduct and may result in a failing grade for the course and/or serious disciplinary action/sanction (2002-2004 Catalog, Pg. 89.)
* **Plagiarism:** Students should realize that presenting the words and ideas of others as their own is dishonest. Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to:
* Knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as your own
* Paraphrasing or copying materials from a source without appropriate citation
* Turning in another student’s work
* Buying and/or downloading a paper from a research service or term paper mill

**My course policy is that anyone who is caught plagiarizing or cheating will be given an F for the course. In addition, the name will be forwarded to the Dean of Students Office so there will be a record that the F was given because of plagiarism or cheating.**

1. **Homework:** The general homework assignments for the course are to keep up with the reading and to watch the assigned videos as we cover the material in class. Any further assignments will be specifically noted.

1. **Withdrawals/Inc:** If for any reason, you decide to withdraw from the class or want an Inc for the class, you must make arrangements with me before the grades are handed in. Just stopping to attend class will result in an **F.**
2. **SCCC CARES:** At Suffolk, we are **C**REATING **A**WARENESS and **R**EADINESS to **E**ND **S**TIGMA about mental health issues. Please know that if you need support related to your psychological, emotional or social well being, there are counselors available on campus in the Counseling Center (Ammerman Building Room 209) to provide free and confidential counseling services. Contact Sarah Boles, Coordinator of Mental Health Services, at [boless@sunysuffolk.edu](mailto:boless@sunysuffolk.edu) or (631) 451-4530 for more information.

\*It is my hope to continue to develop a website that is interesting and useful for future students of my courses. Therefore, if you have any suggestions (i.e. sites that might be added) or encounter problems (i.e. links that are no longer active) please send me an email!

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME.**

**Course Schedule**

Note: All dates and topics are subject to change based on progress through the material.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week |  | | Reading & Website Videos |
| **January 29th** | Introduction | | -Ch. 1  **Videos:**  -[How the human brain works](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UukcdU258A)  -Imaging Techniques and the Brain\*  -Human Connectome Project\* |
| **February 5th** | finish Intro/Begin **Nerve Cell and Nerve Impulses** | | -Ch.3  **Videos:**  -What is it Like to be A Neuroscientist? \*  -[What Does a Neuropsychologist Do, Exactly?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqoFBvmRMSw)  -Neurons of Nerve Cells-Structure, Function and Types of Neurons\* |
| **February 12th** | Finish Nerve Cell and Nerve Impulses  - **QUIZ #1\*** | | **Videos:**  -[Nerve Impulses and Action Potentials](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIojqRFJWbM)  -[Nerve impulse Animation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSkxlpNs3tU)  -EPSPs/IPSPs\*  -Summation of PSPs\*  -How Myelin Sheaths Speed up the Action Potential\* |
| **February 19th**  \*Monday 2/19 Presidents Day NO CLASSES \* | Synapses and Neurotransmitters | | **-**Ch. 3 (pgs. 83-87)  -Ch. 13: Neurochemical Influences of Emotion (pgs. 428-433)  -Ch. 14: (pgs. 447-469)  **Video:**  **-**Agonist and Antagonist\* |
| **February 26th** | Finish Synapses and Neurotransmitters  **-QUIZ #2\*** | | **Video:**  -Neurobiology of Addiction\*  -How does Narcan Work?\* |
| **March 5th** | Functional Neuroanatomy (through Brain Stem) | | -Ch. 2  **Video:**  -The Spinal Cord  -Brain Death |
| **March 12th**  \*SCCC Professional Development Day -NO CLASSES: Tuesday 3/13\* | Finish Brain Stem  **MIDTERM\*** | |  |
| **March 19th**  **\*** 3/21 Wednesday Mid-Semester- students who submit a course withdrawal form on or before this date are guaranteed a grade of a “W” \* | **Functional Neuroanatomy** (Midbrain-Cortex)  **FINAL SUBMISSION DATE:**  **03/21/2018** | | Ch.13, Core Limbic Structures (pgs 408-426)  **Revisiting the Classic Studies:** Chapter 9: Revisiting MacLean - The limbic system and emotional behavior  **Video:**  -Limbic System |
| **March 26th** | \*SPRING RECESS- no classes Monday 3/26-Sunday 4/1 \* | |  |
| **April 2nd** | Finish Midbrain-Cortex  -**QUIZ 3\*** | | **Video:**  -Cerebral Cortex |
| **April 9th** | Neuroplasticity | | -Ch. 4  **Revisiting the Classic Studies:** Chapter 15: Revisiting Krech, Rosenzweig, & Bennett Effects of environmental complexity and training on brain chemistry  **Video:**  -Plasticity of the Brain |
| **April 16th** | | Finish Plasticity  -**QUIZ 4\*** |  |
| **April 23rd** | Memory | | **-**Ch.9  **-Revisiting the Classic Studies:** Chapter 8: Revisiting Scoville and Milner - Loss of recent memory after bilateral hippocampal lesions  **-** Chapter 12: Revisiting O'Keefe - Place units in the hippocampus of the freely moving rat - Matthew Shapiro |
| **April 30th** | Finish Memory, begin **Sleep** | | Ch. 10  **Videos: TBA** |
| **May 7th** | Finish Sleep | |  |
| **May 14th**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **May 22nd**  \*Last day classes meet\* | **\*FINAL EXAM TBA** | |  |

**WRITTEN HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT (100 POINTS)**

The goal of the written paper is to offer the student an opportunity to explore topics in neuroscience to a much greater depth. The following process will assist them in doing so:

1. The student must identify a topic that will be covered by the paper. Part of this identification will be to narrow the topic appropriately so the paper is not too broad.

* **A paragraph summary of the final topic must be submitted to the professor and approved before the paper is completed! –Attach this approval to the final version**

1. Find at least (3) additional sources on the topic
   * + - At minimum, one article must be **peer-reviewed** (not an abstract, a full article)-Articles from Scientific American or Scientific American Mind will be counted as peer-reviewed
2. Complete a paper which includes an explanation of what interested you about the topic, a summary of what you initially knew about it. What additional information you obtained, and whether it was consistent with your prior views/opinions.

**Assignment Checklist:**

* + - Assignments can be handed in at any time before their due dates but **NO ASSIGMENTS ARE ACCEPTED AFTER FINAL DUE DATE FOR ANY REASON**!

**FINAL DUE DATE: 03/21/2018**

* + - **FAILURE TO HAND IN AN ASSIGNMENT RESULTS IN A 0 FOR THAT ASSIGNMENT**
    - Paper will be graded on content, grammar/organization/structure/how well you followed assignment requirements
    - **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN IN EACH ASSIGNMENT TO INSURE YOU ARE CREDITED FOR SUBMITTING IT!**
    - Copies of peer-reviewed articles must be handed in with paper-***failure to do so will mean a penalty of 50 points***
    - Websites must be limited to **.edu, .gov, .org**
    - Text and Class notes can be used but don’t count towards the additional source, however**, they must be cited within the paper**
    - Paper must be completed in **APA Format- *failure to do so will result in a penalty of 50 points (PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE RESEARCH PAPER AREA IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF APA FORMAT)***
    - It is strongly advised that before you submit the paper for a final grade you have it reviewed by someone