Independent Study in Idaho

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PSYC 372
Physiological Psychology

The University of Idaho in statewide cooperation with Boise State University — Idaho State University — Lewis-Clark State College
Course Guide

Psychology 372
Physiological Psychology

University of Idaho
3 Semester-Hour Credits

Prepared by: Dr. Steve Meier
Associate Professor
University of Idaho

RV: 8/02, updated 10/09; updated 10/10
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Welcome!

Whether you are a new or returning student, welcome to the Independent Study in Idaho (ISI) program. Below, you will find information pertinent to your course including the course description, course materials, course objectives, as well as information about lessons, exams, and grading.

Policies and Procedures

Important!
As you read this section, you will see the following icon: 📚

Use this icon to direct yourself to essential ISI information. Students are responsible for following ISI’s policies. Refer to ISI’s website at [www.uidaho.edu/isi](http://www.uidaho.edu/isi), select About ISI, Policies for the most current policies, procedures and course information. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ISI office for clarification before beginning your course.

Course Description

Psychological bases of animal and normal human behavior. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or BIO 102 (Biology and Society) or higher

Required: Internet access, computer with CD drive
12 graded lessons, 1 graded final paper, 4 proctored exams

Course Materials


Independent Study in Idaho course materials are available for purchase at the VandalStore (University of Idaho bookstore). Your Registration Confirmation Email contains the VandalStore’s contact information.

Independent Study in Idaho courses are updated and revised periodically. Ordering course materials from the VandalStore at the time of registration allows you to purchase the correct edition(s) of textbooks, course guides, and supplemental materials. Contact the VandalStore directly for questions regarding course materials that you have ordered.

If purchasing textbooks from another source, refer to the ISBN(s) for the textbook(s) listed for this course to ensure that you obtain the correct edition(s).

Course Delivery
This course is available online. An electronic course guide is accessible through BbLearn at no additional cost. Refer to your Registration Confirmation Email for instructions on how to access BbLearn.

Course Introduction

Physiological Psychology, cognitive neuroscience, neurochemistry and related fields are some of the newest, hottest, and interesting areas of psychology. As the course name indicates, there is considerable overlap with the biological sciences. Students taking this course often find the area fascinating. Generally, this course will provide a comprehensive review of the field with considerable depth.

You should know up front that this is a difficult class with considerable material to recall and conceptualize. You must use good time management skills or you will be in trouble very rapidly. This is also not a memorize and flash class. Not only will you be asked to memorize material, but also, you will be asked to integrate and problem–solve with the information you learn.

Also recognize that this course has prerequisites that you should have completed before taking the course. If you believe you can complete the course without completing the prerequisites that is fine. However, individuals who have not completed the prerequisites must work harder than those who have.

In general, I have an open–door policy with this class. If you don't understand something, are confused, lost, etc., please contact me and we will work through the issue together.

Course Objectives

1. The primary objective of this course is to allow you to gain a heightened understanding of, and appreciation for the nervous system and how it works.
2. We also anticipate you will gain an understanding of techniques used in the field.
3. This course will provide the background to understand the biology behind many psychological disorders that occur in society.

Lessons

Each lesson includes the following components:

• lesson objectives
• a reading assignment
• important terms
• an introductory lecture
• a written assignment or activity

Study Hints:

• Complete all assigned readings.
• Set a schedule allowing for completion of the course one month prior to your desired deadline. (An Assignment Submission Log is provided for this purpose.)
• It is highly recommended that you outline the chapter to increase your understanding. Generally, students who outline material perform better than students who highlight or just read material.

Term Paper

You will be required to write a 5-10 page term paper on a physiological topic of your choice. You must use at least 10 references from journal articles or books. Popular press (e.g., Time, Scientific American, Newspapers, etc.) and Non-Governmental websites will not count toward your total. You can use a
maximum of 4 websites in your count. (100 Points)

**Exams**

- You must wait for grades and comments on lessons prior to taking each subsequent exam.
- For your instructor’s exam guidelines, refer to the letter sent in your registration packet and the Exam Information sections in this study guide.

There will be four examinations in this course. Each will be essay, short answer, or fill in the blank. Each exam will only cover the material in the particular section. All exams are worth 100 points.

See Grading for specific information on exams, points, and percentages.

**Proctor Selection/Scheduling Exams**

All exams require a proctor.

Refer to the ISI Policies and Procedures for guidelines on how to choose a proctor and schedule exams. Complete the Proctor Information Form and send it to the ISI office at least two weeks prior to scheduling your first exam.

**Grading**

The final course grade will be based upon the following considerations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>800</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All grades will be based on the following scale:

- 720 = A 90%
- 640 = B 80%
- 560 = C 70%
- 480 = D 60%
- <480 = F <60%

The grading criteria for the Exam Essay Responses (both short and long essay questions) includes:
1. Accurately presenting the material requested in the questions.
2. Completely covering the breadth of issues posed in the questions.
3. Refers to, and integrates appropriate case examples to illustrate concepts.
4. Legible answers presented in a readable and well-organized style with concepts and illustrative examples that are clearly articulated.

Paper Grading Criteria include:
1. The use of APA style.
2. Clarity/Readability of the content (No typo’s, misspelled words, etc.).
3. Quality of the organization.
4. Quality of the content.
5. General overall presentation.

The final course grade is issued after all lessons and exams have been graded.
Refer to the *ISI Policies and Procedures* for information about confidentiality of student grades, course completion, time considerations, and requesting a transcript.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**

Individuals who are caught cheating or plagiarizing material will receive an F grade for the course. Note: I use term-paper checking technology.

**About the Course Developer**

Your course developer was Dr. Steven E. Meier, an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Idaho. Dr. Meier received his Ph.D. in Psychology from Washington State University. His specialty of training was in experimental psychology with specialties in Learning (Applied Behavior Analysis) Addictive Behavior (Primarily Alcoholism), and Physiological Systems. More information on Dr. Meier and his vita can be found at the following website: [http://www.uidaho.edu/~smeier](http://www.uidaho.edu/~smeier)

**Contacting Your Instructor**

Instructor contact information is available in BbLearn.

**Disability Support Services**

Refer to the *ISI Policies and Procedures* for information on *Disability Support Services (DSS).*
### Assignment Submission Log

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Written Assignment</th>
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<td>Essay Questions</td>
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<td>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take Exam 1.</td>
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<td>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take Exam 3.</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>Term Paper</td>
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<td>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take the Final Exam.</td>
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Lesson 1
Overview of Physiological Psychology

Lesson Objectives
1. To gain an understanding of what Physiological Psychology is.
2. To understand the importance of evolutionary processes in developing traits.
3. To have an appreciation for some early players in Physiological Psychology.
4. To be exposed to some careers in Physiological Psychology.

Reading Assignments
Carlson, Chapter 1

Important Terms
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dualism</th>
<th>Monism</th>
<th>Split-Brain</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corpus Callosum</td>
<td>Reflex</td>
<td>Ablation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functionalism</td>
<td>Evolution</td>
<td>Natural Selection</td>
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Lecture
This chapter provides some background information about physiological psychology. It also provides a general overview of issues that many physiological psychologists consider in understanding how the brain and behavior interact. Finally, it provides some general evolutionary information and migration information of early humans.

Written Assignment
All written assignments MUST be typewritten/word processed.

1. Describe the importance of Descarte’s work.

2. Identify and describe the contributions of three individuals who had a major impact in early physiological research.

3. How does the human brain compare with other animals? What is the limiting variable for human brain size at birth?