

Psychology 581 – Physiological Psychology I, Class Syllabus, Fall 2025

Professor: Mark W. Geisler, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in EP 325 and via Appt.
Lecture: Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. in Room 154 HSS Building
Exam Format: Multiple Choice via Canvas Timed 40 Minute Exams at Home

Class Description: Background and contemporary research relating behavior to biological processes. Data from neural and hormonal systems are summarized and used in examining such complex behaviors as learning, memory, perception, motivation, reproductive and emotional behaviors, cognitive functions and psychological disorders.

Textbook: Biological Psychology (11th or 12th edition) by James Kalat (Wadsworth)

Class Structure: We will cover approximately one chapter per one to two weeks including Chapters 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 if time permits. You will have an exam approximately every 3-4 weeks for a total of 4 exams. I reserve the right to change anything and everything about the class via Canvas or e-mail notification.

The 1st Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 23rd *(Deadlines: Add/Drop Sept 15)

The 2nd Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct 21st *(Credit/No Credit Deadline Dec 5)

The 3rd Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec 2nd *(No class Nov 25, Fall Break)

The 4th Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec 16th *(Cumulative and New Material)

Exam Format: Each of the four exams will consist of 40 multiple choice items. All of the exams will be administered via Canvas on the Tuesdays listed above. The exams will be available to start any time on Tuesday but **must** be completed by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, Tuesday night. Once you start the exam you will have 40 minutes to finish the exam (DPRC students will have accommodations provided that are specific to their individual DPRC letters). Thus, the latest you can start the exam is 11:20 pm on the Tuesdays above in order to have the full 40 minutes. DPRC students must start the exam earlier, specific to their individual letters to allow full time before 11:59 p.m.

Grading: Your Final grade will be based on the sum of your **best two of the first three exams plus exam four** according to the scale below. You **MUST** take all four exams and there will be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. Any form of cheating will equal an F.**

Extra Credit: You may earn up to 5 extra credit points for this course via the Psychology Departments SONA system. Usually a 1 hour experiment earns you 1 Extra Credit point. **All extra credit is due on Monday, December 15th, 2025**, the day **BEFORE** the last exam on Tuesday, December 16th, 2025. Send a screen shot of your SONA Receipt page showing your name and the Extra Credit Assigned for PSY 581 to my email at: mgeisler@sfsu.edu by 11:59 p.m. Monday December 15th, 2025.

Total points possible (from your best 2 of the first 3 exams plus exam 4): **120**

A	=	112-120	(above 93%)
A-	=	108-111	(90%)
B+	=	102-107	(85%)
B	=	96-101	(80%)
B-	=	90-95	(75%)
C+	=	84-89	(70%)
C	=	78-83	(65%) [Credit/No Credit Cutoff]
C-	=	72-77	(60%)
D	=	60-71	(50%)
F	=	<60	(below 50%)

Course Repeat Policy. Effective with courses/grades received since Fall 2008, students can only repeat a course twice! (This includes grades of CR, NC, AU, I, IC, RD, RP, W, and WU and all traditional letter grades A-F) For more information, please read <http://www.sfsu.edu/~senate/documents/policies/S08-248.html>

I reserve the right to change anything and everything about this syllabus but will adequately notify you of any substantive changes in the course syllabus during the semester in writing (digitally via Canvas and/or email). Colleges, schools, departments, or programs may have specific additional syllabus requirements for their course offerings.

The university's statement regarding disability access (VERBATIM):

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email dprc@sfsu.edu.

Any form of Academic Dishonesty, including looking at someone else's exam or letting another student look at your exam will result in an F or (zero on that assignment or exam and that zero will be averaged into your score) and the second offence will result in an F in the course. For information regarding other forms of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, read the website <http://www.azete.com/plagiarism>.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating; it occurs when someone misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgment, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or alter work that a student then submits as his or her own including online exams. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Important Dates for Fall 2025

Monday, 8/25/2025 = Classes begin
Monday, 9/01/2025 = Labor Day, Campus Closed
Monday, 9/15/2025 = Last day to DROP classes (without W)
Monday, 9/15/2025 = Last day to ADD with late permit numbers
Tuesday, 11/11/2025 = Veterans Day Observed, No Classes
Monday, 11/17/2025 = Deadline for Withdrawal for Serious and Compelling Reason
Monday, 11/24/2025 thru Friday, 11/28/2025 = Fall Recess, No Classes
Friday, 12/5/2025 = Last day to request CR/NC grade (done via Student Center)
Friday, 12/12/2025 = Last day of Classes (Last day to Withdraw with Document Proof)
Saturday, 12/13/2025 thru Friday 12/19/2025 = Final Exams (excludes Sunday)
Friday, 12/26/2025 = Grades Due

Statement of Religious Holidays Observance

The faculty of San Francisco State University shall accommodate students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class activities. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays during the first two weeks of the class each semester. If such holidays occur during the first two weeks of the semester, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed.

Academic Integrity

It is assumed that students understand and will abide by the University policies for academic integrity. The expectation is that students will not give, receive, or use unauthorized assistance on any assignment or exam and will only claim work that is entirely their own. This includes not completing assignments or exams in the presence of other students where they can observe other students' work or responses or have their work or responses be observed by other students. Students may only collaborate with other students on designated group projects. Students suspected of academic dishonesty may be reported to the Office of Student Conduct <https://conduct.sfsu.edu/academic-dishonesty>.

Statement Regarding Title IX

SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the [Dean of Students]. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact: The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208; http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc/. Counseling and Psychological Services Center, (415) 338-2208; <http://psyservs.sfsu.edu/>. For more information on your rights and available resources: [<http://titleix.sfsu.edu>]