

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

APPROVAL PAGE Proposal Title: Adding PSYC 4324 as block elective

College: Liberal Arts

Department: Psychology

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Wendy S. Francis

I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.



10/8/2025

Signature

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Selfa A. Chew-Melendez

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

Signature

Date

COLLEGE DEAN – Anadeli Bencomo

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.


Signature

Date

CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 9/24/2025

From: Ana I. Schwartz, Psychology

Through: Wendy S. Francis, Psychology 

Through: Anadeli Bencomo, College of Liberal Arts Dean

To: Selfa A. Chew-Melendez, Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee Chair

Proposal Title: Updates: Block Electives Add PSYC 4324 as block elective

Course name and number

Course category

- ☐ Fine and Performing Arts
- ☐ Humanities
- ☒ Social and Behavioral Sciences

Action Needed

- ☒ Add course to Block Electives
- ☐ Remove course from Block Electives

Proposed Effective Date

Fall 2026

Rationale

Currently psychology offers 3 block electives, each representing a different subdiscipline in psychology, each corresponding to different areas within the Psychology Department (cognitive psychology, legal psychology and health psychology). Currently there is not a block elective representing the subdiscipline of psychobiology. Not only is this a key subdiscipline within psychology, it is an area within the Psychology Department.

CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 9/24/2025

From: Ana I. Schwartz, Psychology 

Through: Wendy S. Francis, Psychology 

Through: Anadeli Bencomo, College of Liberal Arts

To: Alexander Friedman, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee or Graduate Council

Proposal Title: Updates: Block Electives Add PSYC 4324 as block elective

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Psychobiology

PSYC-4324 / Fall 2018 / PSYC Building 308
T/Th 3:00-4:20 pm

Instructor: Sergio Iñiguez, Ph.D.
Email: SDINIGUEZ@UTEP.EDU

Office Phone: 915-747-5769
Office: 216A **Office Hrs:** T/Th 4:30-5:30 p.m., or by appointment.

Text: Biological Psychology, by Stephen B. Klein and B. Michael Thorne. Publisher: Worth.

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the study of brain and behavior. This course will introduce students to the ideas, methods, and principles of neuroscience and psychology. The beginning of the course focuses on the principles of neural function — emphasis is placed on how individual neurons receive and transmit information. This background in basic neuron function provides a framework on which we will build a deeper level of understanding of brain function on a more global scale. A broad survey of topics in the area of brain and behavior are covered; these topics include how the brain allows us to see, hear, and feel sensory events in our surroundings, how drugs influence brain activity and thus influence behavior, how the brain behaves during sleep and dreaming, how the brain lets us learn and remember, and what goes wrong in the brain in psychological disorders, such as depression.

Exams: There will be 5 exams throughout the course. The 5th exam serves as the final exam; this exam is NOT a cumulative exam. There are **no makeup exams allowed** for any reason. Your final grade (200 points possible) will be determined by your 4 highest scores (the lowest exam will be dropped from the first 4 tests); **yet** everybody **MUST** take the 5th exam (i.e., the final). If you miss the Final exam, one of your 4 scores will be a zero (no exceptions). Each exam is worth 50 points each.

Make-up exams are not allowed and cannot be made up and will receive a score of 0. This is why you get to drop one!

Extra Credit: Up to 6 extra credit points (3% of the final grade) can be earned by participating in psychological research. This can be accomplished in two possible ways. **1)** Via the SONA Experiment Management System (<https://utep.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>). This system provides an easy method for you to sign up for extra credit research studies, and track your progress throughout the semester (you must create an account). If you have difficulties, please contact Marisela Duran (email: mduran12@utep.edu) at the Department of Psychology Office (phone: 915-747-5551). **2)** Extra credit may also be earned by attending research-related talks provided by visiting psychology and/or neuroscience researchers to UTEP (I will make the announcement in class when available). Regardless of the method you choose to get extra credit, it will be **DUE** on or before the last day of **regular class** (not the date of the final).

Blackboard Website: The course syllabus, lecture notes, announcements, and grades will be posted on the course Blackboard website (<http://my.utep.edu>).

Disabled Student Policies: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all qualified persons should have equal opportunity and access to education regardless of the presence of any disabling conditions. Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations should contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) office located at Union Building East Room 106 (**915-747-5148**). If you require special provisions, please notify me during the first week of classes with any supporting documentation. For more information contact **cass@utep.edu**, or visit their webpage at: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>

Attendance is expected and will help you earn a better grade in the class than you will earn if you fail to attend regularly. The concepts in the textbook can be very complex and your understanding of the material will be much better if you keep good attendance at the lectures. All exam questions will come directly from lecture and may not be answered only from reading the textbook.

Classroom behavior is expected to be appropriate for university learning. Disruptive talking in class is not allowed, as it disturbs those students around you as well as distracting the instructor from teaching. Reading outside materials in class is inconsiderate as well. Cell phones must have their ringing setting turned off throughout the class period. **DON'T SEND TEXT MESSAGES WHILE IN CLASS. DON'T USE YOUR LAPTOP FOR ANYTHING EXCEPT TAKING CLASS NOTES.** If you fail to adhere to these guidelines, I will ask you to turn off your electronic device on the first occasion, and will ask you to leave class on any subsequent occasions. Please help to create a classroom atmosphere of **mutual respect** and commitment to learning.

Plagiarism/Cheating. Plagiarism and/or cheating on exams are violations of the Student Disciplinary code and will result in an "F" for the course. See UTEP's student affairs webpage for details (<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>).

EXAM GRADING SCALE (by %)

| A | B | C | D | F |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| 90-100 | 80-89 | 67-79 | 66-60 | ≤59 |

COURSE GRADING SCALE: TOTAL POINTS

| A | B | C | D | F |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 180-200 | 160-179 | 134-159 | 133-120 | ≤119.9 |

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

| WK | Day | DATE | TOPIC | READING | NOTES |
|----|-----|----------|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | T | 08/28/18 | Introduction of the course | | |
| | Th | 08/30/18 | History | Ch 1 | |
| 2 | T | 09/04/18 | History / Methods in Research | Ch 1 | |
| | Th | 09/06/18 | Ethics of Conducting Research | Ch 1 | |
| 3 | T | 09/11/18 | The Nervous System | Ch 2 | Census Date |
| | Th | 09/13/18 | The Nervous System | Ch 3 | |
| 4 | T | 09/18/18 | Exam 1 | | |
| | Th | 09/20/18 | The Action Potential | Ch 4 | |
| 5 | T | 09/25/18 | The Action Potential - cont | Ch 4 | |
| | Th | 09/27/18 | Postsynaptic Potentials | Ch 4 | |
| 6 | T | 10/02/18 | Synaptic Transmission | Ch 4 | |
| | Th | 10/04/18 | Exam 2 | | NHSN |
| 7 | T | 10/09/18 | Psychopharmacology | Ch 5 | |
| | Th | 10/11/18 | Psychopharmacology - cont | Ch 5 | |
| 8 | T | 10/16/18 | Neurotransmitters | Ch 5 | |
| | Th | 10/18/18 | Neurotransmitters - cont | Ch 5 | |
| 9 | T | 10/23/18 | Vision (Guest Lecturer) | Ch 6 | |
| | Th | 10/25/18 | Exam 3 | | |
| 10 | T | 10/30/18 | Vision - cont | Ch 6 | |
| | Th | 11/01/18 | Auditory System | Ch 7 | Drop/Withdrawal Deadline |
| 11 | T | 11/06/18 | SfN | | NO CLASS |
| | Th | 11/08/18 | Chemical Senses (taste & smell) | Ch 7 | |
| 12 | T | 11/13/18 | Biological Rhythms | Ch 9 | |
| | Th | 11/15/18 | Sleep | Ch 9 | |
| 13 | T | 11/20/18 | Exam 4 | | |
| | Th | 11/22/18 | Thanksgiving | | NO CLASS |
| 14 | T | 11/27/18 | Biology of Emotion | Ch 12 | |
| | Th | 11/29/18 | Stress and Depression | Ch 12 | |
| 15 | T | 12/04/18 | Biology of Learning & Memory | Ch 14 | |
| | Th | 12/06/18 | Learning & Memory - cont | Ch 14 | Last Day of Regular Classes |
| 16 | T | 12/11/18 | Finals Week | | NO CLASS |
| | Th | 12/13/18 | Exam 5 (FINAL) @ 4-6:45 pm | | ACNP |

NOTE: This schedule is a general guideline. The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the class schedule during the semester. Any schedule changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.