

Cape Cod Community College

Departmental Syllabus

Prepared by the Department of Social Science, Behavioral Science and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: October 4, 2010

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: November 17, 2010

Effective: Fall 2011

1. **Course Number:** PSY234
Course Title: Brain and Behavior
2. **Description:** “Brain and Behavior” is all about the central nervous system (CNS) – its evolution, structures, development, and basic operating principles. Over the course of the semester students will study the neural underpinnings (brain bases) of ordinary behaviors such as talking, moving, thinking, and dreaming. They will also explore instances when the CNS “goes awry”; that is, examine the causes and behavioral effects of CNS disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, schizophrenia, and autism.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes (instructional objectives: intellectual skills):**
 - A. **Knowledge Base of Psychology**

Students who successfully complete the course will identify, explain and apply the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in Brain and Behavior research. The students will be able to compare and contrast different approaches to the understanding of Brain and Behavior. The methods of assessment used to gauge these outcomes are written assignments, tests and class discussion.
 - B. **Research Methods in Psychology**

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to evaluate research methods used in Brain and Behavior research by articulating strengths and limitations of various research designs. Students will be able to dissect important topics in Brain and Behavior and understand that each topic can be analyzed using a variety of approaches.
 - C. **Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology**

Students who successfully complete the course will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to Brain and Behavior. The student will show the ability to use critical thinking effectively by making linkages and connections between diverse facts, theories, and observations.
 - D. **Application of Psychology**

Students who successfully complete the course will understand and apply concepts, theories, and research findings in Brain and Behavior as they apply to everyday life. Students will comprehend, apply and relate different known aspects of Brain and Behavior research, by being able to identify ways in which human abilities may be ameliorated.
 - E. **Values in Psychology**

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of Brain and Behavior as a discipline. The student will recognize and respect human diversity and understand that principles of Psychology may vary across populations and contexts. The student will recognize the necessity for ethical behavior in all aspects of the science and practice of Brain and Behavior. In particular, students will understand how some theories in Brain and Behavior may help in the understanding and prevention of undesirable behaviors.
4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** No
6. **Prerequisite:** PSY101 General Psychology
7. **Semester Offered:** Spring

8. Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation: The final grade will consist of in-class quizzes, Neuroanatomy Coloring Book assignments, and a research project culminating in a paper and presentation.

9. General Topical Outline:

Introduction to brain and behavior

How did the human brain evolve?

How does the nervous system function?

What are the basic units of central nervous system function?

How does the brain develop and adapt?

How do drugs influence brain and behavior?

How do we see the world?

How do we hear, speak, and make music?

How do we move?

Why do we sleep and dream?