



PSYC 2250-501 Fall 2025

Full Semester Course

Brain and Behavior

Valencia Campus

Professor Paul Davis, MS

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

As an adjunct professor for UNM I do not have an on campus office or phone. The best way to contact me is through email (davispaul@unm.edu). By policy all emails to me should come from your UNM student account. You can also find me in Canvas; click on Inbox in the far left menu. At the top you can search by Course then set for teachers (I will be the only one there).

Office hours: By appointment only. You can see me either before or after any lecture to arrange a time to speak. You can also make an arrangement with me by email.

CLASS MEETINGS:

This class meets on Monday and Wednesday from 4:30pm to 5:45pm in the Vocational/Career Tech Center, Room # 103. See the calendar below for details.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A general survey of the biological foundations of behavior and mental processes. Students will gain an understanding of anatomy, physiology, and chemistry of the nervous system and their relationships to human behavior. Prerequisite: 1110 or BIOL 1110 or BIOL 1140.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of the course students should be able to:

1. Identify and describe basic neuroanatomical structures and functions.
2. Identify and describe chemical processes of the nervous system.
3. Apply course concepts to psychological processes, such as learning, memory, sensation,

perception, drive states, sleep, and language.

4. Apply course concepts to psychological disorders, such as schizophrenia and mood and anxiety disorders.

5. Describe the techniques used to study the relationship between brain and behavior.

TEXTBOOK:

Our book is Biopsychology, 10th Edition by John Pinel and Steven Barnes.

If you are participating in the Inclusive Access Program then it is included in the course. Access it by clicking on the “My Shelf” link in the left hand menu.

If you are not participating in the Inclusive Access Program then please see Fall 2025 – PSYC 2250 – Book info in the course (Left Hand Menu > Files).

GRADING:

This course has 18 assignments worth a total of 1,000 points. There is no weighting, where some “points” are worth more than others. In my class a point is a point is a point.

- Grade Calculation:

0 to 699 Points	-- F
700 to 799 Points	-- C
800 to 899 Points	-- B
900 to 979 Points	-- A
980 + Points	-- A+

I do not give grades of D, or plus / minus grades except for A+ for over 98% of points earned.

- Assignments and Point Values:

Written Assignments	1 @ 65 Points 65 Possible
Chapter Assignments	16 at 55 Points each 880 Possible
At Home Final Exam	55 Points
Total	1,000 Points

COURSE OUTLINE:

Dates:	Chapters	Calendar Notes
18 & 20 Aug	Chapter 1	All assignments Due on Friday nights @ 11:59pm.
25 & 27 Aug	Chapters 1 and 2	
3 Sept	Chapter 2	No class on Monday. Fri 9-5: Last day to Drop
8 & 10 Sept	Chapters 3 and 4	
15 & 17 Sept	Chapter 5	

22 & 24 Sept	Chapters 6 and 7	
29 Sept & 1 Oct	Chapters 7 and 8	
6 & 8 Oct	Chapters 9 and 10	Two Assignments due this week, not just one.
13 & 15 Oct	Chapter 11	
20 & 22 Oct	Chapter 12	
27 & 29 Oct	Chapter 13	
3 & 5 Nov	Chapter 14	Fri 11-7: Last day to Withdraw on LoboWeb.
10 & 12 Nov	Chapter 15	
17 & 19 Nov	Chapter 16	
24 & 26 Nov	Chapter 17	
1 & 3 Dec	Chapter 18	Fri 12-5: Last day to Withdraw, Dean form required. Sat 12-7: Last day to submit.
No meetings	At Home Final Exam	Due Fri 12-12 at 11:59. Not accepted late.

For all important academic dates related to the semester please click [HERE](#).

LATE SUBMISSION POLICY:

All deadlines for this course are on Friday night at 11:59 pm. The standard to determine if a submission will be considered on time is the time stamp given to the assignment by Canvas. All submissions that are time stamped after the deadline will be penalized. Up to 35% of the point value of the assignment might be lost. Students that communicate with me MAY receive consideration for exigent circumstances (please note that this is to have the penalty reduced, not removed).

The last day to submit any course work for Weeks 1 to 16 will be Sunday 12-7 at 11:59pm. After that time no credit will be given unless there is a **prior** arrangement in place. The At Home Final Exam is due on Friday 12-12 at 11:59pm; it will not be accepted late without prior approval.

SUBMISSION FORMATS:

All work is submitted on the class website in Canvas.

- You are free to work in the Word Processor of your choice (Docs, Pages, Word).
- All work should be saved and submitted as a Microsoft Word .doc or .docx file.
- I accept work as a PDF with a 10% penalty.
- I cannot open documents written in Pages.
- I do not open any links to a Google doc.

DROPPING THIS COURSE:

If something happens during the semester and you need to stop this class there are three available options.

Option 1: You can Drop the course through LoboWeb or with the Registrar. This option is only available in the first weeks of the course and the deadline is noted in the course calendar above. The result would be that the attempt to take this class will not even show up on your transcript.

Option 2: You can Withdraw from the course through LoboWeb or with the Registrar. This process is available for more than half the course, but if you wait too long you will need to get a form signed by the Dean in order to be able to do so. The result would be a grade of W on your Transcript. Generally this is better than getting an F, but please consult with an Academic Advisor to understand the impact of this on your GPA and/or financial Aid.

Option 3: You could just stop submitting assignments. The result of that would be your grade would be based on whatever work has been submitted and graded. See the Grading section above for additional details.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Having academic integrity is paramount to your success in any class. Plagiarism or cheating is not tolerated. Any instance of this will result in a failing grade for that assignment. Click [Here](#) for the UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy. The policy states:

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or who otherwise fails to meet the expected standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic Dishonesty is defined as:

"Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Turnitin:

All submissions to Canvas are checked for plagiarism by Turnitin. I check the report for every submission.

This program checks for two things. First a score for “Similarity” is produced. Basically it is checking for how similar is your work any others that have ever been submitted to the system. I am not expecting perfection on this score (total originality – there are only so many ways to describe Freud’s theories). If your similarity score is anything under 25% then I am not even worried. Scores even higher are often OK, but might be a problem depending on the contents of the report.

The percentage that you see if you do not click in for the details is this one (The Similarity Report). If you click into the detailed report then you will also see a link to the AI Score report. The AI Score is what I am much more interested in.

The other thing that is checked is the risk that your work was produced by some sort of AI such as ChatGPT. If your score on that measure is over 35% then I will check the submission against an outside checker. Depending on the results of that check you may be asked to rewrite the assignment. You will see a score of 2 in the gradebook. The assignment can be rewritten and resubmitted for full credit. Work will not be graded until Turnitin shows a score of less than 20% on the AI Risk.

If you are using anything like Grammarly and it is telling you to fix more than a few words in your sentences then you are likely going to be flagged by the checker. You need to be doing the writing, not having AI write it for you.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center (<https://arc.unm.edu/>) at arcsrvs@unm.edu or by phone at 505-277-3506.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION:

The University of New Mexico and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and providing an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. The University's programs and activities, including the classroom, should always provide a space of mutual respect, kindness, and support without fear of harassment, violence, or discrimination. Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of assigned sex at birth, sex characteristics, pregnancy and pregnancy related conditions, sexual orientation and gender identity. If you have encountered any form of discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. You can access the confidential resources available on campus at the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center (<https://loborespect.unm.edu>), the Women's Resource Center (<https://women.unm.edu>), and the LGBTQ Resource Center (<https://lgbtqrc.unm.edu>). If you speak with an instructor (including a TA or a GA) regarding an incident connected to discrimination on the basis of sex, they must notify UNM's Title IX Coordinator that you shared an experience relating to Title IX, even if you ask the instructor not to disclose it. The Title IX Coordinator is available to assist you in understanding your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct and reporting, please see <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html> and CEEO's website.

If you are pregnant or experiencing a pregnancy-related condition, you may contact UNM's Office of Compliance, Ethics, and Equal Opportunity at ceeo@unm.edu. The CEEO staff will

provide you with access to available resources and supportive measures and assist you in understanding your rights. Pregnancy and Parenting Support information is available [here](#).

STUDENT SUPPORT:

Confidential services for students are available at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, Women's Resource Center, and the LGBTQ Resource Center. The Women's Resource Center supports all students, including those who are pregnant or are parents. UNM Pregnancy and Parenting Support information is available.

CREDIT HOUR STATEMENT:

This is a three credit-hour course. Class meets for two 75-minute sessions of direct instruction as noted on the calendar above during the Fall 2025 Semester. Please plan for a minimum of six hours of out-of-class work (homework, study, assignment completion, and class preparation) each week.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND EMAIL:

Please check your contact information in Banner and keep it updated. As a reminder official policy is that you need to use your UNM address for all email communication with me.