PSYC 2250-501 Fall 2026
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, 11th 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 Textbook section of the Assignment Information File in the Files section of the course.

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 @ 55 Points
Chapter Assignments	15 @ 55 Points each 825 Possible
At Home Final Exam	120 Points
Total	1,000 Points

COURSE OUTLINE:

Dates:	**Chapters**	**Calendar Notes**
17 & 19 Aug	Welcome to class	All weekly assignments are due on Friday nights at 11:59pm.
24 & 26 Aug	Chapters 1 and 2	
31 Aug & 2 Sept	Chapter 3	Fri 9-4: Last day to Drop
9 Sept ONLY	Chapter 4	No class on Labor Day Monday.
14 & 16 Sept	Chapter 5	
21 & 23 Sept	Chapter 6	

Dates:	Chapters	Calendar Notes
28 & 30 Sept	Chapter 7	
5 & 7 Oct	Chapters 8 and 9	
12 & 14 Oct	Chapters 10 and 11	
19 & 21 Oct	Chapter 12	
26 & 28 Oct	Chapter 13	
2 & 4 Nov	Chapter 14	Fri 11-6: Last day to Withdraw on LoboWeb.
9 & 11 Nov	Chapter 15	
16 & 18 Nov	Chapter 16	
23 Nov ONLY	Chapter 17	No class on Thanksgiving Eve
30 Nov & 2 Dec	Chapter 18	Fri 12-5: Last day to Withdraw, Dean form required. Sun 12-6: Last day to submit.
No class this week.	At Home Final Exam	Due Fri 12-11 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 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 12-6 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 12-11 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 speaking, 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. This program checks for two things. First a score for “Similarity” is produced. It checks how similar your work is to anything that has ever been submitted to the system. This is what you see in the little colored tab in the canvas submission. I am not expecting perfection on this score. If yours is anything under 25% then I am not worried. Higher scores are often OK but might be a problem depending on the contents of the report.

There is another score that you need to click into the report to see. The AI score report is an attempt to figure out if your submission was written by some sort of AI program.
I have discovered over the last several semesters that Turnitin loves to flag a lot of stuff as AI generated, even if it isn't. If you are flagged by the system for submitting AI work, there are two possible outcomes.

- I still might accept the work, even if Turnitin thinks that it was AI generated.
- You fail the assignment and it is flagged as "AI Generated". There now are two options.
    - One: Rewrite and resubmit the work.
    - Two: If you really did not use AI and can provide proof then I will accept the work.
        - Go to an AI checker and paste in your submission. I will need a screen shot that shows below 20% AI generated and enough text from your submission to know that it was the same assignment. There is a sample below under how to convert Docs and Pages to Word files. Let me know what checker you used.

All of this boils down to you need to be doing the writing, not having AI write it for you.
Click HERE to visit the Student Guide to AI. It includes general advice on the ***USE*** of AI and a portion of the website is dedicated to AI Ethics. However, just because something is found here it does not automatically mean that it will fit with my current policy. As noted above, my policy is subject to change. You might ask that I make changes based on the contents of the site, but a request is, in the end, just a request that I am not obligated to grant.

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.