|  |
| --- |
| Code of course: **BMI-LOTD17-106E.03, BMA-LOTD17-106.03, BMA-LOTD-516.01, BBN-FIL18-324.02, BMA-FILD-324.15, BMI-LOTD-516E.01** |
| Title of course: **Philosophy of Mind and Contemporary Neuroscience** |
| Lecturer: **Luis F. Murillo** |
| **General aim of the course:** This course is a one semester overview and introduction to psychology, with a strong emphasis on Historical Problems, Philosophical underpinnings of the Discipline, Psychoanalysis, Biological Psychology, Sensory Physiology of Vision, and Pathological Psychology**Content of the course:** **Course Objectives** - develop familiarity with technical language- provide students with foundational knowledge in the basic areas, and major currents of enquiry in psychological research  - gain familiarity with the basic structure of the nervous system - define questions of consciousness and embodiment, and the variety of methods for collecting research and analyzing data throughout the history of the discipline.  - address the question of the unconscious  - illustrate the critical evaluation of research methodologies - gain competency in comprehending scholarly literature **Procedures** Information will be presented in the form of lectures with interactive student participation. We will view and comment videos about scientific research.  **Classroom format:** Interactive lecture, discussion of readings and videos**Active class participation is extremely important**.**Required Text** R.L. Atkinson, et. al. Hilgard’s Introduction to Psychology A secondary text is available electronically from the instructor upon request **Semester Schedule** 1. The study of psychology. Fields, approaches, historical background, methodological problems
2. Psychoanalysis and the Freudian theories of Personality and Socialisation
3. Neurobiological and physiological basis of psychology / Neuroplasticity
4. Biological basis of pleasure and reward mechanisms / addiction
5. The nervous system and its functions. Sensory physiology. Presentation of Dr. Murillo’s own research on colour vision
6. Sensory Process: Nature vs. Nurture debate. Perception and attention

Mid-term test 1. Psychopathology
2. Social psychology, mental attribution, Classical conditioning

**Grading criteria, specific requirements: Assignments and grading** **- Attendance is important.****Grades drop precipitously after 3 unexcused absences.** - There will be regular quizzes. **Calculating grades** Class participation – 30% Ten best out of 12 quizzes - 20 %  Final test – 50 % **Required reading:** **Week 1** **What am I doing here?**Administrative Introduction –Course logistics: Textbook / Grading and Absence policyWhy study psychology and why did you chose PsychologyAre robots with rat brains possible? What does it feel to be like one?**Week 2** **Am I a brain in a vat? How do I know you guys aren’t zombies?**Thematic Introduction –Consciousness and Behaviour the Object of Psychology.The problem of consciousness. A robot with a rat brain. Is a thermostat conscious?How do we study consciousness?Embodiment (rubber hand), NeuroplasticitySubfields. Experimental approach **Week 3****What did the mind think about itself before I was born?**How the brain creates your reality – from attributions to embodiment, to voices in your head. History of Psychology from Hippocrates to PenfieldWundt (Structuralism), measuring the speed of thoughtJames (Functionalism and evolutionary theory)**Week 4****Am I really who I think I am?**Freud and defense mechanisms**Week 5****How do I know what I know is not bogus?**Research Methods: Experiments, Naturalistics Observations, ceteris paribus Research Techniqueselectrophysiology, tracers, scanners, optogeneticBroca, Penfield (localisationism)**Week 6****What part of me makes me me?****Am I really seeing what I think I am seeing?**Anatomy of CNS and PNSSplit BrainPerception vs SensationVisual systemGestalt Psychology**Week 7****Why do I feel the way I do?****Introduce assignment essay on sensation vs perception**The biology of emotionsThe biology of pleasure and addiction Hippocampus, Medial Forebrain Bundle (MFB)Papez Circuit**Week 8****Am I mentally ill?**Intro to PsychopathologyMain types of Mental Illness**Week 9** **What are those voices in my head?**SchizophreniaDopamine Theory**Week 10** **Does all my life depend on a single protein?**Movie Awakenings**Week 11****Can I express my thoughts clearly?**Student presentations: Mental Illness**Week 12****Am I just a machine?**Learning classical conditioning**Week 13****Is my brain pro-social?**Mental Attribution, Theory of Mind, ConformityFINAL EXAM |