

Integrative Physiological Psychology – PSB 4823

This course aims to accomplish two things:

- (1) To give you an alternative view of Physiological Psychology, which is complementary to that of the introductory course you have already had.
- (2) To give you a way of analyzing behavior. Psychologists generally talk about behavior usually in terms of acts, or of the goals that those acts accomplish. But when they have to describe seemingly purposeless acts (as in stereotypes), or seemingly bizarre behaviors (as in Parkinsonism, for instance), or the behavior of infants, they are usually at a loss for how to describe them.

The course is divided into 3 parts:

- (1) Group discussion, generally focused on the question: Is physiological psychology building psychology or is it building medicine? The students are urged to actively participate in these discussions. This will enhance and clarify the material that will be taught. It will help you to clarify your own thinking, as well as helping you to understand different points of view.
- (2) Geometrical analysis of behavior.
- (3) Lectures on Reflexes as the fundamental building blocks of behavior.

Requirements

- (1) A 150-word written commentary is required after each class meeting, to be submitted at the next class meeting. These commentaries will be returned with written feedback from the lecturers, thus creating a personal dialogue with each student.
- (2) The required textbook is, *An Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine* by Claude Bernard. It was originally published in 1865. Dover Press re-published it a few years ago. We have collected some used copies for the present class's use. These can be obtained from us for a few dollars each. Or you can try obtaining a copy from Amazon.com.
- (3) Each student is required to write a 750-word report on one of the books suggested below (or subject to the instructor's consent, a book of his own choice). This will be accompanied by a presentation to the class.

Suggested list of books for Reports:

- (1) *The Life of Louis Pasteur* by Vallery-Radot. If you are interested in research, there are some bits of advice here that can greatly change your research for the better. PT has lived by this advice throughout his work.

(2) Books by Sigmund Freud

- (a) *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*
- (b) *Early Psychoanalytic Writings*

(3) Skinner, B.F. *Beyond Freedom and Dignity*

(4) Tinbergen, N. *The Study of Instinct.*

(5) Books on Autism

- (a) Grandin, T. *Emergence: Labelled Autistic*
- (b) Grandin, T. *Thinking in Pictures*
- (c) Attwood, T. *Asperger's syndrome.*

Grades:

The final grade in the course depends on:

- (1) Full attendance. All absences must be excused.
- (2) Submitting the 150-word responses after each class
- (3) Participation in group discussions.
- (4) Book report