

# **PSYC 250**

## **Psychobiology**

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

### **Description**

**PSYC 250 – Psychobiology:** Investigates physiological and neurological basis of behavior; considers receptor, central and effector structures; the organization of behavior as it relates to action of the nervous system.

**Pre-requisites: PSYC 101**

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the underlying mechanisms of behavior;
2. Discuss the philosophical issues related to “mind and brain”;
3. Describe the structures of the nervous system including; chemical communication; sensory and motor mechanisms; motivational mechanisms; and learning and memory mechanisms;
4. Distinguish the various experimental methods available for understanding brain-behavior relationships;
5. Identify the underlying mechanisms of human communication;
6. Explain the relationship between the central nervous system and behavior;
7. Discuss the neurological contributions to psychological disorders; and
8. Explain the interaction between biology (including genetics) and the environment in the determination of behaviors.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Instruction; roots of physiological psychology
- II. Structure and function of cells of the nervous systems; neural activity
- III. Neural communication, both physically and pharmacologically
- IV. Structure of the nervous system, central and peripheral
- V. Methods and techniques for investigation of brain-behavior relationships
- VI. Sensory and motor system: central and peripheral mechanisms
- VII. Motivational systems: Central and peripheral mechanisms of sleep, reproduction and ingestive behavior
- VIII. Memory: anatomical, physiological, and biochemical aspects
- IX. Brain mechanisms of reinforcement and relationship to addiction
- X. Human communication
- XI. Mental disorders, physiological and biochemical relationships
- XII. Role of Heredity and environment in determination of behavior

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.  
For more information, see your professor’s syllabus.

## **Course Requirements**

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Tests/Quizzes
- Research papers
- Oral presentations
- Cooperative learning group assignments
- Classroom participation

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

## **Other Course Information**

This course is an elective course in the department of psychology and is recommended as part of the transfer program

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