

SCHOOL OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK
(CIP file- Classification of instructional programmes)

Course unit title:	BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY
Course unit code:	BPSY101
Type of course unit:	Required
Level of course unit:	BSc Psychology
Year of study:	2
Semester when the unit is delivered:	Winter
Number of ECTS credits allocated :	5
Name of lecturer(s):	Dr Marios Kittenis
Learning outcomes of the course unit:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the role of Biological Psychology as a subject matter within Psychology. 2. Acquire fundamental knowledge regarding brain function and development throughout the lifetime. 3. Become familiar with the structure and organization of the nervous system. 4. Be aware of the processes involved in the creation and transmission of neuronal signals. 5. Understand the basic principles involved in processing sensory information (e.g. touch and pain). 6. Be aware of the ways in which the endocrine system affects human behavior. 7. Understand the basic principles of motor control and neuroplasticity. 8. Understand the hormonal and neural bases that determine the differentiation of sex. 9. Be able to explain the processes involved in maintaining internal bodily functions. 10. Are familiar with the function of basic biological rhythms (e.g. sleep/wake cycle). 11. Can explain the main theories of emotion with emphasis on physical responses. 12. To explain the ways in which the malfunction of the above systems will play a role in psychiatric or other disorders.

Mode of delivery:	Lectures		
Prerequisites:	None	Co-requisites:	None
Course contents:	<p>Historical overview: Studying the relationship between brain and behavior.</p> <p>The Biological Bases of Behavior: Nervous system and behavior.</p> <p>Neurophysiology: Creation, transmission and integration of neural signals. The chemical basis of behavior: Neurotransmitters, hormones and brain.</p> <p>Evolution and Development of the Nervous System: development of the brain and behavior throughout the lifetime.</p> <p>Perception and Action General principles of sensory stimuli processing: touch and pain, vision, hearing, taste and olfaction. Control of movements and plasticity of brain and behavior.</p> <p>Adjustment and Behavior Gender: Evolutionary, neural, hormonal and experiential bases. Homeostasis: Active control of our internal environment. Biological rhythms, sleep and dreams.</p> <p>Emotions and Mental Disorders: Emotions, aggression and psychosomatic stress Psychopathology: The biological basis of mental disorders: a) Schizophrenia b) Autism c) Mood disorders d) Anxiety disorders</p>		
Recommended and/or required reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pinel, J.P.J. (2014). Biopsychology. 9th edition. Harlow: Pearson. • Kalat, J.W. (2013). Biological Psychology (11th edition). 		
Textbooks:	No specific textbook required		
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aleixo, P. (2012). Biological Psychology: An illustrated survival guide. Wiley. • Kolb, B. & Whishaw I.Q. (2009). Brain and Behavior. • Toates, F. (2007). Biological Psychology (2nd edition). • Rosenzweig, M.N., Breedlove, M.S., Watson, N. (2005). Biological 		

	Psychology.
Planned learning activities and teaching methods:	Presentation of audiovisual material related to the above topics, followed by group discussions.
Assessment methods and criteria:	Written project 40% Participation 10% Final exam 50%
Language of instruction:	Greek
Work placement(s):	No