

Behavioral Genetics

PSY-6369-010

Spring 2022

Academic 201a



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Office Hours: M: 10 to 12 p.m.

W: 10 to 2 p.m.

F: 10 to 12 p.m. (virtual)

Or by appointment

Course Information

Course Description

This course will provide A preliminary introduction to genes and their interaction with behavior. Emphasis will be placed on the mechanisms of protein production, malfunctions, and environmental interaction

Course Credits

3 credits

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses

Psy 6342

Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites (including Blackboard), use of ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expectations for this course.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:
Understand how genes are investigated	Oral presentation
Understand how genes and the environment interact	Oral presentation
Understand basic gene expression	Oral presentation
Understand how genes are linked to behavior	Oral Presentation

Course Delivery

This is a face-to-face course with learning resources and supplemental materials posted in Blackboard.

Required Texts and Materials

Knopik, V., Neiderhiser, J., DeFries, J. & Plomin, R. (2017) Behavioral Genetics (7th ed). New York: Worth Publishers

Topic Outline

This course will be focused on integrating current genetic research findings and understanding with the student's thesis project. As such, the student will be responsible for identifying relevant peer reviewed research (lit review) related to their thesis topic and providing a verbal presentation of their literature review.

Course content is organized into four modules covering the highlighted textbook information and will be supplemented with relevant articles and media. The following is subject to change at the instructors discretion.

Module/Week	General Topic/material
MODULE 1	Current research in genetics
Weeks 1 - 4	Chapters 4 – 9, & 20, related articles

Module/Week	General Topic/material
Module 2	Genetic function: understanding heredity, transcription, and genetic mutation
Weeks 5 -8	Chapters 3 – 9, related articles
Module 3	Genetics and the environment
Weeks 9 – 12	Chapters 7 – 9, related articles
Module 4	Genetics and behavior
Weeks 13 – 16	Chapters 6 & 10 – 19, related articles
Week 16	presentations

Journal presentation

Each week, students are expected to find a peer reviewed genetics article that is related to their thesis topic. Students will provide an oral summary of the article and it's relevance to their thesis topic.

Thesis integration and presentation

Students will prepare a 15-20 minute presentation that incorporates their understanding of genetics as it relates to their thesis topic. The presentation will be organized into four sections that mirror the module organization of the course.

Section 1: research

Section 2: function

Section 3: environment

Section 4: behavior

Communication

Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and number (Psychopharmacology, 6336) in the subject line.

Virtual communication: Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Collaborate, Skype, etc.

Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

Assessment	Percent/Points of Total Grade
Preparedness	15%
Integration	15%
Understanding	15%
Final presentation	55%
Total	100%

Grading System

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

A = 90.00-100

B = 80.00-89.99

C = 70.00-79.99

D = 60.00-69.99

F = 0-59.99

Teaching Strategies

Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (**beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course**) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and clinical experiences with their peers. This is especially true of a graduate class.

Late Work Policy

Students are being scored for their weekly contribution to overall topical conversation. A deduction of 2% occurs for each unexcused absence or class session in which the student is unable/unprepared to present. Absences due to conference attendance or documented medical/family emergencies will not experience a grade reduction.

General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)¹
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)²

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).³

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).⁴ The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford

Director of Student Disability Services

Office of Student Affairs

325-942-2047

dallas.swafford@angelo.edu

Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)⁵ for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)⁶ in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).⁷

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)⁸ for more information.

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

Syllabus Changes

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student's responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.

Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of

Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

End of Syllabus

¹ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

² <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

³ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

⁴ <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

⁵ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

⁶ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

⁷ https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php

⁸ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>