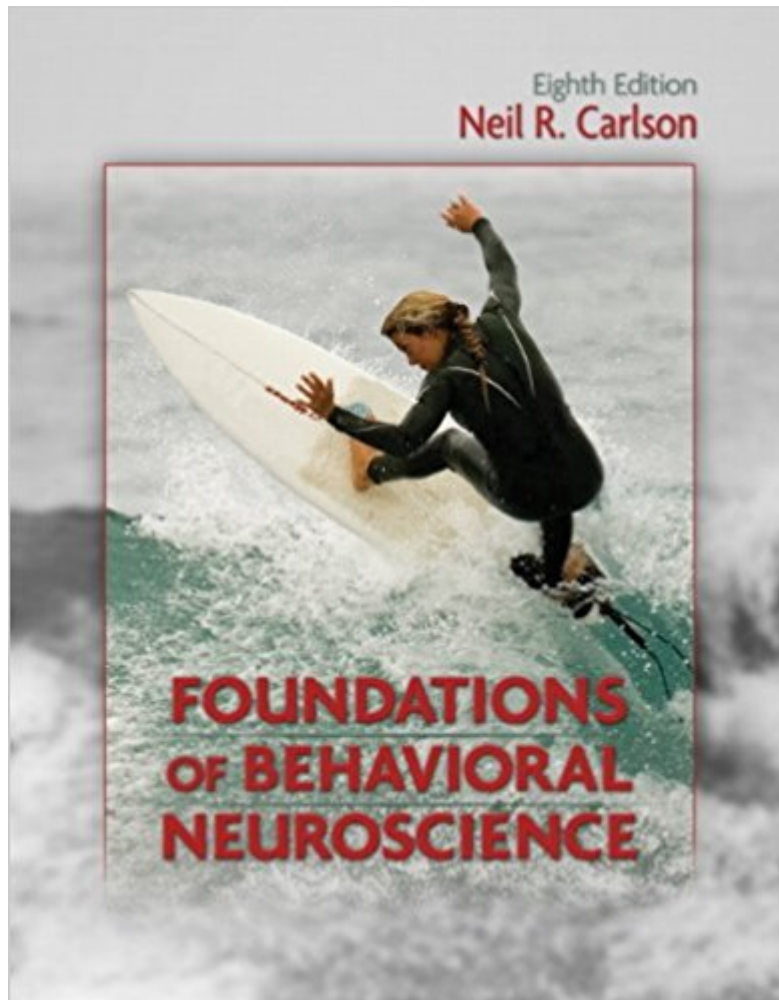




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# Foundations Of Behavioral Neuroscience (8th Edition)



## Synopsis

For undergraduate junior/senior level courses in Behavioral Neuroscience, Physiology of Behavior, Biopsychology, Human Neuropsychology, or Physiological Psychology. Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience offers a briefer, sixteen chapter introduction to the foundations of physiology, incorporating the latest studies and research in the rapidly changing fields of neuroscience and physiological psychology. The text uses many human examples, case studies, and MyPsychKit ([www.mypsychkit.com](http://www.mypsychkit.com)) featuring Carlson's Neuroscience Animations to help make the material interesting and relevant to student readers. Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience is ideal for the instructor who wants a briefer text with a balance of human and animal cases.

## Book Information

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Neil Carlson, U Mass Amherst Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Neil Carlson's research has focused on the relationship between the brain and

behavior—specifically, the role of the limbic system in learning and species-typical behavior. Dr. Carlson received his undergraduate degree and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. In addition to writing *Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience*, Dr. Carlson is also the author of *Physiology of Behavior* and co-author of *Psychology: The Science of Behavior*. Dr. Carlson's books have been translated into Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, German, Hebrew, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean.

*Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience* is an excellent textbook aimed at an advanced undergraduate to graduate-level audience. At first, I feared the book was going to be too basic as it labored over explaining terms such as e-n-z-y-m-e and p-h-a-g-o-c-y-t-o-s-i-s. "Nooooooo," I exclaimed to myself; "this book is for those who haven't even taken high school chemistry or biology!" But my early concerns proved to be baseless as the book smoothly transitioned into very good and thorough explanations of more advanced topics. Of necessity there was some overlap with the subject matter covered in other neuroscience textbooks I have read recently. After all, the textbook explicitly states that it takes up *\*foundations\**. However, the repetitive material was very brief and was limited to only what was necessary to establish the foundation of the material to follow. The textbook really began to hit its stride once it had passed the more elementary portions and moved into the behavioral neuroscience topics such as sleep, reproductive behavior, emotion, ingestive behavior, and learning and memory. All of these areas were covered thoroughly at a level that was neither too simplistic nor overwhelmingly complex. Just like Goldilocks, I felt the textbook had found a balance that was *\*just right\** for my own autodidactic needs. As an autodidact, though, I was frustrated by the over-reliance on the supplemental materials in MyPsychLab. I don't know if this was available on an accessory CD-ROM or DVD or on a web site, but in any case, it was not material that was available to me, except presumably for the payment of an additional fee. I wish the author had not assumed his readers had access to these supplemental materials and had not relied on them as much as he did; I would have preferred that he had applied his excellent explanatory prose and incorporated this material within the textbook itself. The text concluded with excellent chapters on communication, neurological disorders, and neurobehavioral disorders including schizophrenia, affective disorders, autism spectrum disorders and substance abuse disorders. I was not expecting to find a discussion of neuropathologies in this textbook, but I'm glad they were included because their explanations contributed to my understanding of the neuroscience of behavior. Reading this textbook was a greatly satisfying and enriching learning experience. I would be remiss in not making note of the organization of the textbook. Each chapter began with a clinical

vignette, and concluded with further details about the opening vignette. I thought these vignettes were an excellent way of introducing and then wrapping up the topics covered in each chapter. The text was written in a single column with wide margins, allowing room for key terms to be highlighted and elaborated upon in the spacious margins. The illustrations consisting of schematic diagrams and imaging studies were especially helpful. Each chapter closed with a recitation of the key points of that chapter. In summation, I thought this was a model textbook in neuroscience that other textbooks in the field would do well to follow, and I congratulate the author on finding such a successful format for presenting in a clear manner what was not simple material. The \*only\* thing that keeps me from giving this textbook five stars is its over-reliance on MyPsychLab and its corresponding assumption that all readers would have ready access to that material. If this content had been included within the text itself, it easily would have earned five stars.

I really like the layout and information of this book -- one of the best texts I've read. I like how it has space on both sides of the pages for notes and such, and every emboldened word is laid out neatly at the bottom corner of each page with the definition. It has a pretty laid-back writing style, and is very concise, at less than 500 pages of text -- one of the shortest textbooks I've ever had.

While I understand I am renting this book, it has pages that are full of different colored highlighters. Some pages are about to fall out of this book. I'm treating it with the utmost of care as I do not want to be charged for something that I was not responsible for. I think that this particular book should have been retired.

This book has great up-to-date information in most chapters. However, my professor has mentioned the book does not go into great details about some subjects addressed. However, it is a book to introduce behavioral neuroscience and does give further reading suggestions at the end of each chapter. I did not need the PsychKit companion for my class but wished I had it several times when the content was hard to understand. I usually was able to retrieve more information with visuals for easier learning on the Internet though. It's a good book that addressed everything I needed to know for my class.

Outstanding textbook has a clean way of teaching students to learn all about our amazing brain. I highly recommend it!

Used it for a class at school. Great book!

This textbook covered a lot of material, but was not as thorough as I would have liked for the course it was used for. I found it to stop short on many points and seemed to just skim the surface when it should have gone much deeper to give a clearer picture. If I had to choose to a textbook I think I would search a little further than this publication for my students.

Ordered for class when University bookstore was backordered. Got it a week sooner than classmates, and was the same price and value!

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