

**Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 2240 3.0 Section M: BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF BEHAVIOUR  
Friday 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM / Curtis Lecture Halls B (CLH B)  
Winter 2022**

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**UPDATE: Classes will resume in-person on Friday February 14, 2022.**

**(Original Description of the Course)** The course will be delivered in-person at York University, Keele Campus. The lectures will also be recorded and available online after the live class for those who are unable to attend the live class. In addition to the lecture, the class will include interactive activities and discussion questions which will not be available online.

**Instructor and T.A. Information**

Instructor: Kashmala Qasim

Office: Behavioural Science Building (BSB) Room 257

Office Hours: By appointment over Zoom

Email: [gasimka@yorku.ca](mailto:gasimka@yorku.ca)

<b>T.A.</b>	Katherine Newman
<b>Email</b>	kmnewman@yuoffice.onmicrosoft.com
<b>Office Hours</b>	By Appointment (Over Zoom)

**Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced**

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

**Course Credit Exclusions**

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

**Course website:** [eClass](#)

All course materials will be available on the course eClass site, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. The site will be your central access point for course materials.

**Course Description**

This course presents an introduction to the biological basis of behaviour. We will introduce topics relevant to behaviour in the normal and abnormal states of the brain beginning with sensory perception, attention, movement, emotion and language along with relevant clinical research and studies illustrating the effects of impaired brain function. We will begin with introductory topics such as neuroanatomy and neuroplasticity and end the course with topics such as neurorehabilitation after brain injury as well as careers in neuroscience and neuropsychology.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge of biological determinants of behaviour.

2. Describe and evaluate current theory and research in biological psychology.
3. Understand and interpret principles of biological psychology in everyday life.
4. Define biological causes of human behaviour from different perspectives.

**Required Text**

- Kolb, Wishaw, & Teskey. (2019). *Introduction to Brain and Behavior* (6<sup>th</sup> edition).

The textbook will be supplemented with videos, articles, internet resources, podcasts and/or discussions as deemed relevant by the instructor.

**Course Requirements and Assessment:**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Date of Evaluation (if known)</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Exam 1	Feb 4	35%
Exam 2	Mar 4	35%
Final in-class Exam	Apr 8	20%
Class Participation		10%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Description of Assignments**

Exams will consist of multiple choice questions only. Multiple choice questions will be derived almost entirely from text book material.

**Exam 1 – 35%**

Chapters 1,2,4, and 5 will be covered. The exam will begin at the start of class and will be held in class for 1.5 hours followed by a 1-hour lecture.

**Exam 2 – 35%**

Chapters 6,7,8, and 9 will be covered. The exam will begin at the start of class and will be held in class for 1.5 hours followed by a 1-hour lecture.

**Final Exam – 20%**

Chapters 11,12,13,14, and 16 will be covered. The final exam will be in class on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The exam will be 1.5 hours.

**In-Class Participation – 10%**

Discussions, answering questions through games in-class, etc.

*Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.*

## Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests\* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar – [Grading Scheme for 2021-22](#)

## Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment

For any missed quiz or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician's Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed quiz or late assignment.

## Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2021-22 Important Dates](#)

	Fall (Term F)	Year (Term Y)	Winter (Term W)
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 21	Sept. 21	Jan. 23
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 5	Oct. 26	Feb. 7
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 12	Feb. 11	18-Mar
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 13 - Dec. 7	Feb. 12 - April 10	March 19 - April 10

## Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course,

the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

### **Academic Integrity for Students**

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

### **Test Banks**

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

### **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

### **Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

### **Course Materials Copyright Information**

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC2240 3.0 (Section M) course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted

materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

### Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topic(s)	Required Readings
Week 1/ Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome! Course & Syllabus Overview; Introduction to brain and behaviour	Ch. 1
Week 2/ Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	Brain Organization and Functional Components	Ch. 2
Week 3/Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	Neurotransmitters: Neuronal Function, Communication, and Adaptation	Ch. 4 & 5
Week 4/Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	Psychopharmacology: Influence of Drugs & Hormones on the Brain  <b>*MIDTERM 1* - Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5</b>	Ch. 6
Week 5/Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	How do we Study Brain and Behaviour?	Ch. 7
Week 6/Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>*Reading Week – No Class*</b>	NO CLASS
Week 7/Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>	Brain Development and Abnormal Experiences in the Brain  How do we Sense and Perceive the World?	Ch. 8 Ch. 9
Week 8/March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Motor, Movement and Somatosensory Systems  <b>*MIDTERM 2* – Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9</b>	Ch. 11
Week 9/March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Emotion, Motivation and Regulatory Behaviour	Ch. 12
Week 10/Mar 18 <sup>th</sup>	Neural Basis of Sleeping and Dreaming	Ch. 13
Week 11/ Mar 25 <sup>th</sup>	Neural Systems for Learning, Memory and Plasticity	Ch.14
Week 12/April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Clinical Neuroscience: Brain Injuries & Psychiatric Disorders Careers in Neuropsychology	Ch. 16
Week 13/Apr 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>*FINAL EXAM IN CLASS*</b>  <b>Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 16</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>