

Course: **Biological Basis of Behaviour (PSYC 2240-A)**
 Term: Summer (S1) 2016
 Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays, 14:30-17:30
 Location: CLH “A”
 Prerequisites: HH/PSYC 1010 6.0, with a minimum grade of C

Course Director: Jennifer Bazar, Ph.D.
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 Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am-12noon

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the fundamental principles of brain function and neural organization. Topics include the neural, chemical, and structural components of the brain; sensation and perception; sleep and dreaming; learning and memory; language; and psychological disorders.

Course Objectives

1. To survey the basic structures and functions of the brain;
2. To explore the effects on behaviour resulting from damage or disease of the brain;
3. To provide an introduction to both classic and recent research relating to the biological basis of behaviour.

Required Textbook

Kalat, J. W. (2016). *Biological psychology* (12th Ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Moodle (<https://moodle.yorku.ca/>)

- Students are expected to check the course Moodle page and their email regularly for course updates
- Lecture outlines will be posted to Moodle before each lecture period

Evaluation

Tool	Weight	Deadline
Exit Tickets	10%	Completed during each lecture
Exam #1	30%	May 25
Exam #2	30%	June 8
Exam #3	30%	York Final Exam Period: June 22-24

Course Details & Policies

Course Format

The course meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 14:30 to 17:30 in Curtis Lecture Hall A. Students are expected to attend class regularly, to complete the weekly assigned readings **before** coming to class, and to participate in both class discussions and activities during the lecture period.

If you must miss a class, it is recommended that you arrange to borrow notes from a classmate.

Exit Ticket

During each of the 10 lecture periods, students will be provided with an “Exit Ticket” on which they are to respond to a series of questions related to in-class discussions, activities, videos, and guest lectures. Tickets must be submitted at the end of the lecture period to obtain full marks (tickets received prior to the end of lecture will receive only a partial grade).

As the Exit Ticket is a form of in-class participation, no makeups are available. *To account for external forces that may occasionally prevent you from attending class, all students will receive one “freebie” (i.e., submitting 9 out of 10 Exit Tickets will earn you the full 10%).*

Exams

There will be three non-cumulative exams consisting of multiple choice and short-answer questions. Questions on the exams may be derived from the assigned readings, class lectures, videos, class discussions/activities, and/or guest lectures.

Only documented illnesses or emergencies are considered appropriate excuses for missing an exam. Notification concerning an absence must be received within 48 hours of the missed exam (by email to the TA) and York-approved documentation must be provided to justify your absence. This documentation must be dated within two days of the missed exam. You will be required to provide a copy of the documentation to the TA at the time of the makeup exam.

For all medically-related absences, an Attendant Physician’s Statement is required as documentation: http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attend_physician_statement.pdf

For all other forms of absence, please consult York’s policies or contact the Course Director.

Academic Integrity

York University takes cheating, plagiarism, impersonation, and other kinds of violations to academic integrity very seriously. Breaches of academic integrity will result in harsh penalties.

It is highly recommended that you familiarize yourself with York’s policies concerning academic integrity: <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/> Please see the Course Director or your TA if you have any questions or need further clarification.

Grading

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York. See: <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/students/grading.html>

Percentage	Letter Grade
90+	A+
80-89	A
85-79	B+
70-74	B
65-69	C+
60-64	C
55-59	D+
50-54	D
40-49	E
0-39	F

Email Policy

During the week (Monday-Friday), please give us up to 48 hours to reply to your email. Note that messages received over the weekend may not be read until Monday morning.

To ensure a response to your email, please remember the following courtesies:

1. Include the course code in the subject line (PSYC 2240-A);
2. Address both the TA and Course Director by name;
3. Write in full sentences;
4. Sign all of your emails with your full name and student number.

Technology Policy

Laptops, tablets, smartphones, and smart-watches are welcome in our classroom – although they are not required. During class time, electronic devices should be used for course-related work only and must be turned to “silent” mode. Vibration settings, ringing, texting, checking email or social media sites, playing games, or responding to a call during class time is disrespectful to your instructor, TA, and fellow classmates and is thus highly discouraged. Note that no electronic devices are permitted during exams.

Religious Accommodation

Should any of the exam dates specified in the course syllabus pose a conflict for you with a religious observance of special significance, please contact the Course Director at least 14 days before the scheduled exam. For more information about York’s policies, please see:

<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

If you require academic accommodations, please present the appropriate documentation to the Course Director as early as possible in the semester. For more information about York’s policies, please see: <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>

Course Schedule & Readings

May 9	Syllabus and Introduction to Course	Exit Ticket
May 11	Ch. 1: Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Exit Ticket
May 16	Ch. 2: Synapses	Exit Ticket
May 18	Ch. 3: Anatomy & Research Methods Guest Lecture: Brianne Collins on Psychosurgery (<i>via Skype</i>)	Exit Ticket
<i>May 23 - No Class: Victoria Day</i>		
May 25	Exam #1: Lectures May 9-18; Chapters 1-3; Guest lecture	

May 30	Modules 5.1, 6.1, 6.3: Vision, Hearing, Taste, Smell	Exit Ticket
June 1	Ch. 7: Movement	Exit Ticket
<i>June 3 - Last day to drop course without receiving a grade</i>		
June 6	Ch. 8: Wakefulness and Sleep	Exit Ticket
June 8	Exam #2: Lectures May 30-June 6; Modules 5.1, 6.1, 6.3; Chapters 7-8	

June 13	Ch. 12: Learning & Memory	Exit Ticket
June 15	Ch. 13: Cognitive Functions	Exit Ticket
June 20	Ch. 14: Psychological Disorders	Exit Ticket
June 22-24	Exam #3: Lectures June 13-20; Chapters 12-14 DO NOT book travel or make other arrangements until the exam dates have been announced by the University	

**Schedule is subject to change. Students should check course Moodle site and their email regularly for updates.*