Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 2240 3.0 Section A: BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF BEHAVIOUR
Fridays/2:30-5:30pm/Curtis Lecture Hall E
Fall/2019

Instructor and T.A. Information

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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: Moodle

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the biological determinants of behavior, drawing upon classic and cutting-edge research in neuroscience. An overview of the central nervous system structure will be provided and how it relates to sensation, perception, movement, emotion, and neurocognitive functions. Clinically relevant research and case examples will be integrated with the material throughout the course to better illustrate brain-behavior relationships in healthy states and in the context of illness and injury.

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* (6th edition).

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

Course Structure

This is primarily a lecture-based course, but students will also be required to actively participate at times through either peer-based discussions or interactive online activities. Videos, podcasts, and/or internet resources may be used by the instructor to facilitate small-group discussions. Short breaks will be provided over the course of the 3 hour lecture at times determined by the instructor.

All course communication will take place through Moodle, including posting of all course information, and any necessary changes or announcements. Please monitor this regularly. A portion of class activities will take place through LaunchPad – MacMillan's online learning platform that is associated with the required course textbook. You are encouraged to visit your TAs during office hours for any and all course related questions and this will be your best resource for working through course challenges. You may also contact the instructor by e-mail with questions, but please do not expect a reply sooner than 24 hours (during week days) or a reply over the weekend.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Exam 1	October 4th	25%
Exam 2	November 8th	25%
Final Exam	TBD (during final exam period)	40%
Weekly LearningCurve	September 13th-November 22nd	10%
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

Exams will consist of approximately 80% multiple choice (about 40 questions) and 20% short-answer (2 questions worth 5 points each). Multiple choice questions will be derived almost entirely from text book material. Short-answer questions may incorporate some textbook material but will also cover extra material that is discussed in class. Therefore, regular attendance is important.

Exam 1 – 25%
Chapters 2-5 and 7 will be covered. The exam will be in class for 2 hours following a 1-hour lecture.

Exam 2 – 25%
Chapters 8-12 will be covered. The exam will be in class for 2 hours following a 1-hour lecture.

Final Exam – 40%
All assigned material will be covered in this exam. Chapters 13-15 will be covered as new material, in addition to previously covered chapters (2-5 and 7-12). The final exam will be held during the scheduled exam period December 5-20, 2019. Date, time, and location TBD.

Weekly LearningCurve Activities – 10%
This will be a weekly learning activity required to be completed BEFORE classes scheduled for Weeks 2-6 and Weeks 8-12. Students will have a week to complete the LearningCurve online via LaunchPad (e.g., between the end of Week 1's lecture and the beginning of Week 2's lecture). Student's only need to complete the weekly Learning Curve to receive a mark for that week (total of 1%). LearningCurve is designed to be a fun, interactive learning tool with an adaptive quiz component. The goal is to help students prepare for the upcoming lecture, and thereby maximally benefit from it, resulting in a richer and more in-depth learning experience. There will be no make-ups for this activity. Failure to complete the activity for a given week will result in a grade of 0.

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 2019-20

Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment:

If a student misses Exam 1 OR Exam 2, the final exam will be re-weighted to count for 65% of the final grade. There will be no make-up exams and no exceptions. No doctor's note is required.

If Exam 1 AND Exam 2 are missed, only students with an appropriately documented reason for missing Exam 2 (as described below) may request accommodation from the instructor. Make-up exams will take the format of long and short-answer essay questions, and may involve an oral component. Scheduling of the make-up exam will be negotiated with the instructor to take place outside of regularly scheduled course hours as soon as possible following the original scheduled exam date.

For any missed tests, midterm exam or late assignments, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

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 tests, midterm exam or late assignments.

In addition, to the online form, students documented reason for a missed tests, midterm exam or late assignments such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., MUST submit official documentation (e.g. Attending Physician Statement)

Failure to complete BOTH of these tasks within 48 hours will result in a grade of 0 on the exam and students will not be eligible for a make-up exam. Further accommodations will require the student to formally submit a petition to the Faculty.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: Fall/Winter 2019-20 - Important Dates

	FALL (F)	**YEAR (Y)**	**WINTER (W)**
Last date to add a course **without permission** of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 17	Sept. 17	Jan. 19
Last date to add a course **with permission** of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 1	Oct. 22	Feb. 3
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 8	Feb. 3	March 13
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 9 - Dec. 3	Feb. 4 - Apr. 5	March 14 - Apr. 5

***Note**: *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 information SPARK Academic Integrity modules. These modules explain principles of academic honesty.

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.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with

an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

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 York University Accessibility Hub is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The Accessibility Hub provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement.

Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

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 PSYC 2240 Section A 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/ Sept 6th	Course overview; introduction to brain and behaviour	none
Week 2/ Sept 13th	Brain organization and functional components **LearningCurve due**	Ch. 2 & 3
Week 3/Sept 20th	Neuronal function, communication, and adaptation **LearningCurve due**	Ch. 4 & 5
Week 4/Sept 27th	How to study brain structure and function **LearningCurve due**	Ch. 7
Week 5/Oct 4th	Brain development ***Exam 1* & LearningCurve Due**	Ch. 8
Week 6/Oct 11th	Sensation and perception **LearningCurve Due**	Ch. 9

Week 7/Oct 18th	**Reading Week – Classes Cancelled**	
Week 8/Oct 25th	Audition, speech, and motor movement **LearningCurve Due**	Ch. 10 & 11
Week 9/Nov 1st	Emotion and motivation **LearningCurve Due**	Ch. 12
Week 10/Nov 8th	Sleep and dreaming ***Exam 2* & LearningCurve Due**	Ch. 13
Week 11/ Nov 15th	Learning and memory **LearningCurve Due**	Ch.14
Week 12/Nov 22nd	Higher-order thinking; clinical disorders and case examples (time permitting) **LearningCurve Due**	Ch. 15
Week 13/Nov 29th	Clinical disorders and case examples (time permitting); review session	(optional Ch. 16)
Final Exam	Date/time/location TBD	