

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 2240 3.0 Section M: BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF BEHAVIOUR
Fridays/11:30am-2:30pm/Life Sciences Building 106
Winter/2020

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Patric Plesa

Office: Behavioural Science Building (BSB) Room 150C

Office Hours: By appointment

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T.A.	Karin Kantarovich
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Office	SHR 1006
Office Hours	By appointment

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

All course communication will take place through Moodle, including posting of all course information, and any necessary changes or announcements. Please monitor this regularly. 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	Feb 7	35%
Exam 2	Mar 13	35%
Final in-class Exam	Apr 3	30%
Total		100%

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 1-3, & 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 6,10,11, &12 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 – 30%

Chapters 14-16 will be covered. The final exam will be in class on April 3rd. The exam will be 1.5 hours.

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:

For any missed tests 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 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 10 th	Course overview; introduction to brain and behaviour	Ch. 1
Week 2/ Jan 17 th	Brain organization and functional components	Ch. 2
Week 3/Jan 24 th	Neuronal function, communication, and adaptation	Ch. 3
Week 4/Jan 31 st	How to study brain structure and function	Ch. 5
Week 5/Feb 7 th	Brain development *Exam 1*	Ch. 6
Week 6/Feb 14 th	Sensation and perception	Ch. 10
Week 7/Feb 21 st	**Reading Week – Classes Cancelled**	
Week 8/Feb 28 th	Audition, speech, and motor movement	Ch. 11
Week 9/Mar 6 st	Emotion and motivation	Ch. 12
Week 10/Mar 13 th	Sleep and dreaming *Exam 2*	Ch. 14
Week 11/ Mar 20 th	Learning and memory	Ch.15
Week 12/Mar 27 th	Higher-order thinking; clinical disorders and case examples (time permitting)	Ch. 16
Week 13/Apr 3 rd	Final Exam in class	Final Exam

Dear Students,

My online course is open for student registration. Follow these steps to get started. If you need additional guidance, consult the [support site](#), especially the system requirements which list recommended browsers.

Go to <https://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/kolbintro6e/12585326>

Bookmark the page to make it easy to return to (although note that the URL will look different due to security measures).

Enroll in this course using one of the following options:

If you have an access code, select "I have a student access code", enter the code exactly as it appears on the card, and click Submit.

If you don't have an access code, either purchase a text package that includes one OR click "I want to purchase access" and follow the instructions.

If you need to start working but can't purchase right away, select "I want temporary access" and follow the instructions. Please note: Your grades are linked to your Launchpad account username (email address). If you use temporary access, make sure you purchase or register your code using the same email address for your paid access.

If you have problems registering, purchasing, or logging in, please [contact Customer Support](#).

You can reach a representative 7 days a week:

- through the online form
- by chat
- by phone at (800) 936-6899

Looking forward to seeing you in class!

Patric Plesa

patricpleasa@rogers.com