

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 2240 3.0 Section A: BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF BEHAVIOUR
Mondays/14:30pm-17:30pm/Online via Zoom
Fall 2020

This is a strange time for everyone, but I nonetheless look forward to exploring the brain with all of you, and I am committed to making it as comfortable and safe as possible. Lectures will be delivered synchronously over Zoom, on the day and time of each class (see below for a list of class dates), and recorded for later viewing. The exams (2 mid-terms, 1 final) will be done over Zoom. Course schedule is subject to change.

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Peter J. Kohler, PhD (he, him, his)

Office: 1012 Sherman Health Science Research Centre, Keele Campus

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: pjkohler@yorku.ca

T.A.	Rachel Moreau, BSc (she, her, hers)	Karin Kantarovich, MA (she, her, hers)
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Office	Zoom	Zoom
Office Hours	Thursdays, 3:00-4:00 pm	Fridays, 9.00-10.00 am

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](#)

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. Relevant research and case studies 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 and other resources that are relevant to the material. We will use LaunchPad – MacMillan’s online learning platform that is associated with the required course textbook for activities worth 10% of the grade, so **make sure your textbook includes Launchpad access.**

Course Structure

This is primarily a lecture-based course, but students will also be asked to actively participate at times through small-group discussions, Zoom polls or answering open-ended question in chat. Videos, podcasts, and/or internet resources may be used by the instructor to facilitate participatory learning. 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 eClass, including posting of all course information, and any necessary changes or announcements. Please monitor this regularly. You are encouraged to reach out to your TA 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 19th	25%
Exam 2	November 16th	25%
Final Exam	TBD (during final exam period)	40%
Weekly LearningCurve	September 21st-November 30th	10%
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

Exams will consist of approximately 80% multiple choice and 20% short-answer. Multiple choice questions will be derived almost entirely from text book material. Short-answer questions may incorporate some textbook material as well as extra material discussed in class. Lectures will highlight the most important material in each chapter. Therefore, it is a good idea to view the lectures.

Exam 1 – 25%

Chapters 2-5 and 7 will be covered. The exam will be held over Zoom on the scheduled date.

Exam 2 – 25%

Chapters 8-12 will be covered. The exam will be held over Zoom on the scheduled date.

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 over Zoom during the scheduled exam period December 9-23, 2020. Date, time, and location TBD.

Weekly LearningCurve Activities – 10%

LearningCurve activities are required to be completed before the scheduled day of class for Weeks 2-4 and Weeks 7-12. Students will have a week to complete the LearningCurve(s) online via LaunchPad (e.g., between the end of Week 1's lecture and the beginning of Week 2's lecture). 2-6 LearningCurves are assigned per week, for a total of 33, and students will need to complete at least 28, meaning that they can choose to drop any 5 of the 33 and still get full marks for the LearningCurve activities. LearningCurve is an interactive learning tool with an adaptive quiz component that aims to encourage ongoing engagement with the material, and help students prepare for the weekly lecture. There will be no make-ups for this activity.

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 2020-21](#)

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.

At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician's Statement (APS) is not required, however, a legitimate reason must be provided. Legitimate reasons include severe health issues and other medical emergencies.

Failure to submit the form 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 2020-21 Important Dates](#)

	FALL (F)	YEAR (Y)	WINTER (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 22	Sept. 22	Jan. 25
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 6	Oct. 27	Feb. 8
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 6	Feb. 5	March 12
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 7 - Dec. 8	Feb. 6 - Apr. 12	March 13 - Apr. 12

***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.

Online Exam Monitoring

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a great deal of uncertainty for all members of our community. Unfortunately, we do not yet have clarity from the government regarding when and how the current emergency regulations may be lifted to allow a gradual return to in-person teaching. As you plan ahead for Fall academic activities, given that the need for physical distancing will likely continue for some time, it is clear that most courses will need to be delivered to you at least in part using remote/online/flexible teaching techniques. Senate Executive has approved changes to the core required information that must be included in course outlines to disclose to students if the evaluation scheme includes an online proctored exam. For courses that require a proctored online final examination, York University will be providing instructors with access to Proctortrack software this summer and fall.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination

This course will be delivered in an online format and therefore electronic devices (e.g., tablets, laptops) are permitted during class time for course-related purposes. **Exams are closed-book**, which means that you are expected to complete exams in a manner that does not require consulting an unauthorised source during the examination.

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

Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

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 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 14 th	Course overview; Introduction to Brain and Behaviour	none
Week 2/ Sept 21 st	Structural and Functional Organization of the Brain LearningCurve due	Ch. 2 & 3
Week 3/Sept 28 th	Neuronal function, communication, and adaptation LearningCurve due	Ch. 4 & 5
Week 4/Oct 5 th	Techniques for studying brain structure and function LearningCurve due	Ch. 7
Week 5/Oct 12 th	**Reading Week – Classes Cancelled**	
Week 6/Oct 19 th	Brain development and adaptation Exam 1 & LearningCurve Due	Ch. 8
Week 7/Oct 26 th	Seeing and hearing the world LearningCurve Due	Ch. 9 & 10
Week 8/Nov 2 nd	Touch, speech and movement LearningCurve Due	Ch. 11
Week 9/Nov 9 th	Emotion and motivation LearningCurve Due	Ch. 12
Week 10/Nov 16 th	Sleep and dreaming *Exam 2* & LearningCurve Due	Ch. 13
Week 11/ Nov 23 rd	Learning and memory LearningCurve Due	Ch.14
Week 12/Nov 30 th	Higher-order Cognition LearningCurve Due	Ch. 15
Week 13/Dec 7 th	The Dysfunctional Brain / Review	(optional Ch. 6, 16)
Final Exam	Date/time/location TBD	