

**Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 2240 3.0 Section B  
BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF BEHAVIOUR  
Fall 2020**

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### Course Director and T.A. Information

Joseph F.X. DeSouza, PhD Neuroscience2001

LAS0009C (office hrs before/after class)

416.736.2100 x22946

Website: <http://www.joeLAB.com>

[neural@yorku.ca](mailto:neural@yorku.ca)

E-mail etiquette: I will respond within 99 hrs Monday to Friday (9am-4pm).

T.A.	Sara Jasim, M.A cand. Clinical Dev	Katherine Newman, PhD cand.
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Office	TBD	TBD
Office Hours	By email	By email

### Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.

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

Course website: <https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/my/>

### 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 beginning with sensory perception, attention, movement, emotion and language with experimental examples from our lab (<http://www.joeLAB.com>) and clinical studies\research illustrating the effects of impaired brain function. We will begin an introduction of topics such as: How do neurons change? How does plasticity occur in the brain? Can music/dance help brain function? What is neurorehabilitation?

### 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.

### Specific Learning Objectives

1. This course presents an introduction to the fundamentals of biological basis of behaviour. At conclusion of the course you will have an introduction to the brain's input and output relationships
2. Understanding of how sensory information is processed in our brain
3. Understanding of how motor functions are accomplished
4. Exposure to topics within Society for Neuroscience (<http://www.sfn.org>)

## Course Format

Lectures/discussion/movies with textbook reading assignments and use of podcasts and internet resources.

## Required Text

The course will use's Kolb, Whishaw & Teskey, Intro to Brain and Behavior (6th Edition). The text will be supplemented with internet resources, movies and lectures. You may use previous versions of the text but please compare your text with the current one.

## Course Requirements and Assessment

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Date of Evaluation</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
LaunchPad Learning Curves	weekly 1, 2, 3,4, 5 due Oct 22nd. 7, 9, 10,11,12,13,14 due Dec 8th.	15%
LaunchPad Chapter Quizzes (lowest quiz will be dropped) <b>Midterm (Chap 1-5,7)</b>	weekly Week 6	25%
<b>Final exam (Chap 1-5,7,9-11 14,12,13, chpt 16 pg577-591 only)</b>	Fall exam period (Dec 9 – 23)	30%
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Total		100%

## 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 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

## Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

## Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

For any missed tests 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 test/assignment.

## Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2020 - Important Dates](#)

	FALL (F)	YEAR (Y)	WINTER (W)
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 22	Sept. 22	Jan. 25
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> 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 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.

### **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 PSYC2240 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:**

<b><u>Lectures</u></b>	<b><u>Readings</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
1	Chapters 1, 2	Sept 10
2	Chapters 2, 3	Sept 17
3	Chapters 4, 5	Sept 24
4	<b>Review and catchup</b>	Oct 1
5	Chapters 7	Oct 8
READING WEEK		

6	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b> <i>chapters 1-5, 7</i>	Oct 22
7	Chapters 9, 10, 11	Oct 29
8	Continue chapters 9-11	Nov 5
9	<b>Review and catchup</b>	Nov 12
10	FOLLOW ORDER -- Chapters 16 pg 577-591, 14, 12, 13	Nov 19
11	Summary of course	Nov 26
12	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> <i>chapters 1-5, 7, 9-11, 14, 12, 13,</i> <i>16 pg 577-591 only</i>	TBD

Reading Week: October 12 – 16

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

All course materials will be available on the course moodle site, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. The site will be your central access point for course materials such as Lecture Videos, LaunchPad (textbook support) additional web resources.

**Technical requirements for taking the course:**

Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., Moodle, LaunchPad, Zoom, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director / TA, as well as with one another. Please review the syllabus to determine how the class meets (in whole or in part), and how office hours and presentations will be conducted. Students shall note the following:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

I expect students to participate in this course, 1) through Zoom video conferencing and therefore 2) student may also appear on video (e.g., for tutorial/seminar discussion, etc.). In addition to stable, higher-speed Internet connection, students will need a computer with webcam and microphone, and/or a smart device with these features.

Instructions on how to register to borrow a laptop can be found here: <https://computing.yorku.ca/offcampus> under the heading “If you don’t have a computer at home.”

**A way to determine Internet connection and speed:** there are online tests, such as [Speedtest](#), that can be run.

**Useful links describing computing information, resources and help for students:**

[Student Guide to Moodle](#)

[Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)

[Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)

[Computing for Students Website](#)

[Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)