

PSYC 375

Brain and Behaviour

Summer2013

<b>Instructor:</b>	Simon Spanswick	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	PF 118
<b>Phone:</b>	403-394-3989	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MWF, 10:30 – 12:20
<b>Email:</b>	scspansw@ucalgary.ca		
<b>Office:</b>	A34		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Email me to arrange a convenient time		

### Course Description and Goals

The task of behavioural neuroscience is to explain behaviour in terms of the activities of the brain. This course explores a wide variety of topics that may include the neural basis of learning, memory, sensation, and thinking, as well as behavioural and neurodegenerative disorders that arise from nervous system malfunctioning.

### Prerequisites

Psychology 200 – Principles of Psychology

### Required Text

*An Introduction to Brain and Behaviour* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition), B. Kolb and I.Q. Whishaw (2012), Worth Publishers. The text is available from the university bookstore.

### Evaluation

Quizzes (6 total):	20%
Midterm #1 (July 17 <sup>th</sup> ):	25%
Midterm #2 (Aug 2 <sup>nd</sup> ):	25%
Final Exam (to be scheduled by the registrar):	30%

There will be 6 quizzes spread throughout the course; **the marks from your best 5 will be used to calculate your total quiz grade.** Each quiz will be worth 4% of your final grade (for a total of 20%). **These quizzes will test you on the prior days' lecture/reading material,** and are designed to keep you up to date with the course material. Quizzes will be done at the beginning of the lecture, and will consist of 1 to 2 short answer questions. Please ensure that you have a writing utensil with you at the beginning of each class.

There are 3 exams for this course; each of them will consist of short answer and multiple choice questions. Questions can be drawn from lecture material and the assigned textbook chapters. Midterm #1 will be held on **July 17<sup>th</sup>** and is worth 25% of your final grade. Midterm #2 is scheduled for **Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>** and will also be worth 25% of your final grade. Midterm #2 **will NOT be cumulative**. The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar and is worth 30% of your final grade, it will follow the same format as the two prior midterm exams, **the final exam will NOT be cumulative.**

Quizzes and exams will be graded using a similar format. Half marks will be given if it is clear that you know the general answer, but have omitted specific details or scientific terms. Full marks will be given to those that include specifics, and employ the correct terminology and concepts. **No books, notes, computers, calculators, or cellular phones will be allowed during exam/quiz writing.**

### Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

### Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
T July 2	Summer Term lecture begins
W July 3	Introduction, What is the Brain and Where Does it Come From? (Chapter 1)
R July 4	Last day to change registration (drop, add, or swap courses).
F July 5	Nervous System Function (Chapter 1/2)
M July 8	<b>Quiz #1</b> , Nervous System Function (Chapter 2)
W July 10	Functional Units of the Nervous System (Chapter 3)
F July 12	<b>Quiz #2</b> , Functional Units of the Nervous System/How do Neurons Communicate (Chapter 3/4)
M July 15	How do Neurons Communicate (Chapter 4)
W July 17	<b>Midterm #1 (25% of Final Grade)</b>
F July 19	Neurotransmitters (Chapter 5)
M July 22	<b>Quiz #3</b> , Neurotransmitters/Drugs and Hormones (Chapter 5/6)
W July 24	Drugs and Hormones (Chapter 6)
F July 26	Studying Brain and Behaviour (Chapter 7)
M July 29	<b>Quiz #4</b> , Studying Brain and Behaviour/Development (Chapter 7/8)
W July 31	Development (Chapter 8)
F Aug 2	<b>Midterm #2 (25% of Final Grade)</b>

M Aug 5	Vision (Chapter 9)
W Aug 7	<b>Quiz #5</b> , Vision/Movement (Chapter 9/11)
F Aug 9	Movement (Chapter 11)
M Aug 12	Sleep, Learning and Memory (Chapter 13/14)
W Aug 14	<b>Quiz #6</b> , Learning and Memory (Chapter 14) <b>Summer Term Lectures End, Last day to withdraw from courses.</b>
Aug 15-17	<b>Final Exam (to be scheduled by the registrar)</b>

### **Reappraisal of Grades**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

### **Travel During Exams**

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December, April, or Spring/Summer examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act**

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

### **Course Credits for Research Participation [Max 2% of final grade]**

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

### **Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

**Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 403-220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 403-220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Important Dates**

The last day for registration/change of registration is **July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**.