

PSYC 375 (LEC 01)
Brain and Behaviour
Winter 2018

Instructor:	Dr. Simon Spanswick	Lecture Location:	ENE 241
Phone:	403-220-4948	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 09:30-10:45
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Course Description

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 malfunction.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Describe the major structures of the brain and explain their general function.	Multiple choice exams, short answer questions	1	I
Outline the basics of neural communication (neurotransmitters, the action potential, etc.).	Multiple choice exams, short answer questions	1	I
Illustrate the relationship between nervous system dysfunction and disease states (Alzheimer's disease, depression, etc.).	Multiple choice exams, short answer questions	1	I
Compare and contrast the usefulness of different species, techniques, and levels of analysis for studying brain and behaviour.	Multiple choice exams, short answer questions	1,2,6	C, I
Critically evaluate information presented in the media regarding brain and behaviour.	Written Assignment	2,4,5,7	C, I

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Prerequisites

Psychology 200 – Principles of Psychology

Required Text

An Introduction to Brain and Behaviour (5th Edition), B. Kolb, I.Q. Whishaw, and G.C. Teskey (2016), Worth Publishers. The text is available from the university bookstore.

Assessment Methods

Quizzes (4 total):	10%
Midterm #1 (Ch. 1-4; February 6 th)	25%
Midterm #2 (Ch. 5-7,10; March 13 th)	25%
Written Assignment (March 27 th)	10%
Final Exam (Ch. 10,11,13,14; TBA)	30%

There will be 4 quizzes spread throughout the course; each quiz will be worth 2.5% of your final grade (for a total of 10%). **The quizzes will test you on the lecture material that has been covered since the last assessment**, and are designed to keep you up to date with the course material. **Quizzes will be done at the beginning of lecture**, and will consist of approximately 3 short answer questions. Please ensure that you have a writing utensil with you at the beginning of each class.

There are three exams for this course; the two midterms will consist of multiple-choice questions. Questions can be drawn from lecture material and the assigned textbook chapters. Midterm #1 will be held on February 6th and is worth 25% of your final grade. Midterm #2 is scheduled for March 13th 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 include multiple-choice and short answer questions; **the final exam will NOT be cumulative**.

Quizzes and the short answer questions on the final exam 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 of scientific terms. Full marks will be given to those that include specifics, and employ the correct terminology and concepts. Unless specified by your instructor, **no books, notes, computers, calculators, or cellular phones will be allowed during exam/quiz writing**.

The written assignment should be two pages in length (not including the reference section or title page) and formatted according to APA guidelines, **it is due by 11:00 pm on March 27th** (handed in via the assignment dropbox in D2L) and is worth 10% of your final grade. Your goal is to find and read a current news article describing research about the brain, and compare it to the original source, as well as relate it back to our discussion on brain and behaviour in the classroom. Further details regarding the assignment will be provided in class and posted on D2L. Late papers will not be accepted without appropriate documentation.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

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 Jan 9	Introduction to the Course. What is the Brain and Where Does it Come From? (Chapter 1)
R Jan 11	What is the Brain and Where Does it Come From? Nervous System Function (Chapter 1/2)
T Jan 16	Nervous System Function (Chapter 2)
R Jan 18	Nervous System Function/Functional Units of the Nervous System (Chapter 2/3)
F Jan 19	<i>Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.</i>
M Jan 22	<i>Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i>
T Jan 23	Quiz #1 , Functional Units of the Nervous System (Chapter 3)
R Jan 25	Functional Units of the Nervous System/How do Neurons Communicate? (Chapter 3/4)
T Jan 30	How do Neurons Communicate? (Chapter 4)
R Feb 1	How do Neurons Communicate? (Chapter 4)
T Feb 6	Midterm #1 (25% of final grade)
R Feb 8	Neurotransmitters (Chapter 5)
T Feb 13	Neurotransmitters (Chapter 5)
R Feb 15	Neurotransmitters/Drugs and Hormones (Chapter 5/6)
Feb 18-25	Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day). Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
M Feb 19	Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
T Feb 27	Quiz #2 , Drugs and Hormones (Chapter 6)
R Mar 1	Drugs and Hormones /Studying Brain and Behaviour (Chapter 6/7)
T Mar 6	Studying Brain and Behaviour (Chapter 7)
R Mar 8	Studying Brain and Behaviour (Chapter 7)
T Mar 13	Midterm #2 (25% of final grade)
R Mar 15	Hearing (Chapter 10)
T Mar 20	Hearing/Movement (Chapter 10/11)
R Mar 22	Movement (Chapter 11)
T Mar 27	Written Assignment Due (10% of final grade) , Movement (Chapter 11)
R Mar 29	Sleep (Chapter 13)
F Mar 30	Good Friday. University Closed
T Apr 3	Quiz #3 , Sleep (Chapter 13)
R Apr 5	Learning and Memory (Chapter 14)
T Apr 10	Learning and Memory (Chapter 14)
R Apr 12	Quiz #4 , Learning and Memory (Chapter 14)
F Apr 13	<i>Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.</i>

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; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. 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 Accommodations

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy. Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy. Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor.

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 up to 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 during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).

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 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.

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

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 **April 13, 2018**.

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 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca

(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **January 19, 2018**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 22, 2018**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 13, 2018**.