

## PSYC 251(A01): INTRODUCTION TO MIND & BRAIN

The brain is wider than the sky,  
For, put them side by side,  
The one the other will include  
With ease, and you beside.

---Emily Dickinson

**TIME:** 8:30 am - 10:20 am, Monday to Friday. **LOCATION:** Cornett B135

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Buyun Xu

**EMAIL:** [xubuyun@uvic.ca](mailto:xubuyun@uvic.ca)

**OFFICE:** Cornett A214

**OFFICE HOURS:** TBA

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Drew Halliday

**EMAIL:** [drewh@uvic.ca](mailto:drewh@uvic.ca)

**OFFICE:** TBA

**OFFICE HOURS:** TBA

### PREREQUISITES

Two of *PSYC 100A*, *PSYC 100B*, *BIOL 184* (fka.190B), and *BIOL 186* (fka.190A)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Some people wonder whether psychology is a real science. Through this course, I will try to demonstrate to you how the mind and brain can be studied using scientific approaches. You will first be introduced to some basic knowledge about the brain, and the methods that have been used to study brain activities. Next, we will go over different cognitive processes, such as attention, perception, memory, etc. and how those processes are related with different brain areas. Please be noted that, although our understandings of how the brain and mind works have been improved over the last few decades, there are still many unknowns in this field, just like any other fields of science.

### GOAL

After taking this course, I hope that you will gain basic understanding of how the mind and brain are studied scientifically, acquire knowledge about the neural and cognitive systems and their connections, and appreciate how the cognitive and neural sciences are applicable to everyday life.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

**TEXTBOOK:** Purves, D., et al. (2013). Principles of Cognitive Neuroscience (Second Edition). Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates, Inc.

**HARDWARE:** iClicker (Generation 1 or Generation 2), for sale at the UVic Bookstore.

Register your iClicker at: <http://www.uvic.ca/iclickerreg>

EVALUATION

ITEM	DATE	% OF GRADE
iClicker Participation	throughout	5
Exam 1	Mon., Jul. 11 <sup>th</sup>	25
Exam 2	Mon., Jul. 18 <sup>th</sup>	25
Exam 3	Tue., Jul. 26 <sup>th</sup>	30
Article Reviews	by 5 pm July 29 <sup>th</sup>	15
Extra Credit	by Tue., July. 26 <sup>th</sup>	up to 2

**iCLICKER PARTICIPATION** credit can be earned by making iClicker responses in class. You will not be evaluated on the answers you give, just on participation. Credit will be given for each class, except for the first class and exam days, thus there are 13 available classes. You can miss iClicker participation in up to 2 classes and still receive full credit. If you miss participation in more than 2 classes, unless you have a valid, documented reason (e.g., illness, accident, family emergency, etc.), your participation grade will be deducted by 5/11 points for each missed class.

**EXAMS** may include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions. You are responsible for attending examinations as scheduled. If you miss Exam 1 or 2 for a valid, documented reason you may be permitted to write a make-up test at the instructor’s discretion. Unexcused missed examinations will be assigned a score of zero. If you miss Exam 3, you must apply to Records Services to request a deferred examination (see the UVic Calendar for guidelines).

**ARTICLE REVIEWS** credit can be earned by writing summaries of 2 articles selected from the 12 articles provided by the instructor. Each article review accounts for 7.5% of your final grade. The rubrics will be posted on course-space. Both article reviews should be printed and submitted together to the drop-box of the instructor located next to the PSYC general office by 5 pm on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Late submission of assignments will result in the deduction of 1 point every day from the 15 total points. Keep a copy of your articles in the unlikely event that we misplace the one that you’ve submitted.

**EXTRA CREDIT** can be earned by either of the following approaches: (A). Participate in research studies in the Department of Psychology. Each 30 minutes of participation will earn 1 credit and up to 4 credits (i.e., 2 hours) may be counted toward this course. Each credit increases your final grade by 0.5%. For details, go to the Psychology Research Participation System web page (<http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/psychology/research/participants>). (B). Write a short essay about Emotion. The chapter about Emotion will not be covered in class due to the limited time that we have for the course. Therefore, you can take the opportunity to study it by yourself. The topic and rubrics of the essay will be announced in class and posted on course-space. You can earn up to 2% toward your final grade from the essay.

GRADING SCALE

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	50-59	0-49

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
7/4 -Introduction -Neurons	7/5 -Brain -Methods	7/6 -Perception 1	7/7 -Perception 2	7/8 -Action
7/11 -Exam 1	7/12 -Attention 1	7/13 -Attention 2	7/14 -Memory 1	7/15 -Memory 2
7/18 -Exam 2	7/19 -Social Cognition	7/20 -Language	7/21 -Executive Function	7/22 -Decision Making
7/25 -Article Review Workshop	7/26 -Exam 3 -Extra Credit Due	7/27	7/28	7/29 -Article Review Due

USEFUL RESOURCES

iCLICKER: register at <http://www.uvic.ca/iclickerreg>, general iClicker technical support at <http://www.uvic.ca/systems/support/learningteaching/iclicker/>

COURSESPACES, EMAIL, NETLINK ID, LAB COMPUTERS: visit Computer Help Desk website at <http://www.uvic.ca/systems/support/>, email [helpdesk@uvic.ca](mailto:helpdesk@uvic.ca), call 1-(250) 721-7687, or go to Clearihue A004.

PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH PARTICIPATION SYSTEM: email [p100res@uvic.ca](mailto:p100res@uvic.ca) or visit <http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/psychology/research/participants/>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. Feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSd) as soon as possible. Visit <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/> for more information.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE: If English is not your first language and you are having trouble because of that, please contact the English Language Centre at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/>

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: Most students at one time or another struggle with mental health issues. UVic has a wealth of resources to help students through those tough times: <http://www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/students/>

**UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**  
**Department of Psychology**

**Important Course Policy Information**  
**Summer 2016**

***Prerequisites***

Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Students who complete courses without prerequisites ARE NOT exempt from having to complete the prerequisite course(s) if such courses are required for the degree program.

***Program Requirements***

For more information see pages 378-382 of the UVic Calendar 2015-2016.

***Registration Status***

Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the deadlines set out in the current UVic Calendar.

***Commitment to Inclusivity and Diversity***

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

***In the Event of Illness, Accident or Family Affliction (See UVic Calendar, 2015-16, p. 59)***

- ***What to do if you miss the final exam scheduled on the last day of classes***

Apply at Records Services for a "Request for Academic Concession", normally within 10 working days of the date of the exam. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student's academic record.

OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here:

<http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf>

- ***What to do if you miss an exam other than one scheduled on the last day of classes***

Do not apply at Records Services for a "Request for Academic Concession". Instead submit documentation of the illness, accident or family affliction directly to your course instructor (or designated teaching assistant).

- ***What to do if you require additional time to complete course requirements***

Apply at Records Services for a "Request for Academic Concession", normally within 10 working days of the end of the course. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation. Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student's academic record.

OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here:

<http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf>

## ***Policy on Academic Integrity including Plagiarism and Cheating***

The Department of Psychology fully endorses and intends to enforce rigorously the Senate Policy on Academic integrity (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html> , p. 54-57, UVic Calendar 2015-16). It is of utmost importance that students who do their work honestly be protected from those who do not. Because this policy is in place to ensure that students carry out and benefit from the learning activities assigned in each course, it is expected that students will cooperate in its implementation.

The offences defined by the policy can be summarized briefly as follows:

1. **Plagiarism.** You must make sure that the work you submit is your work and not someone else's. There are proper procedures for citing the works of others. The student is responsible for being aware of and using these procedures.
2. **Multiple Submission.** Only under exceptional circumstances may a work submitted to fulfill an academic requirement be used to satisfy another similar requirement. The student is responsible for clarifying this with the instructor(s) involved.
3. **Falsifying Materials Subject to Academic Evaluation.** This includes falsification of data, use of commercially prepared essays, using information from the Internet without proper citation, citing sources from which material is not actually obtained, etc.
4. **Cheating on Assignments, Tests, and Examinations.** You may not copy the work of others in or out of class; you may not give your work to others for the purpose of copying; you may not use unauthorized material or equipment during examinations or tests; and you may not impersonate or allow yourself to be impersonated by another at an examination. The Department of Psychology has a policy of not making old examinations available for study purposes. Therefore, use of old exams without the express written permission of the instructor constitutes cheating by the user, and abetting of cheating by the person who provided the exam.
5. **Being an Accessory to Offences.** This means that helping another student to cheat (for instance, by showing or communicating to them answers to an assignment, or by allowing them to view answers on an exam) is an academic offence.

Instructors are expected to make every effort to prevent cheating and plagiarism. This may include the assignment of seating for examinations, asking students to move during examinations, requests to see student identification cards, and other measures as appropriate. Instructors also have available to them a variety of tools and procedures to check for Internet and electronic media-based cheating. In instances of suspected or actual plagiarism or cheating, instructors, following prescribed procedures, are authorized to take steps consistent with the degree of the offence. These measures will range from a zero on the test or assignment or a failing grade for the course, probation within a program to temporary or even permanent suspension from the University.

Rights of Appeal are described in the Policy on Academic Integrity in the University calendar (on p. 54-57 in 2015-2016).

**The definitive source** for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar (p. 54-57 in 2015-2016) (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>)

**Other useful resources on Plagiarism and Cheating include:**

1. The Study Solutions Office: <https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/success/study/index.php>
2. The Ombudsperson's office: <http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/ombudsperson/pubsguides/plagiarism.pdf>
3. The English Department: <http://web.uvic.ca/wguide/Pages/CitPlagiarism.html>