

Psychology 215A (A01)

Introduction to Biological Psychology

Summer 2016 (July-Aug)

M,W,10:30pm-12:20pm, F, 10:30-11:20 am CORN A225



Instructor: Iris Gordon

Office: Cornett A215

E-mail: igordon@uvic.ca

Office hours: M, W, 12:30 – 1:30 pm
F, 11:30 – 12:30 pm



Teaching Assistant: John Sheehan

Office: Cornett B030

E-mail: jsheehan@uvic.ca

Office hours: T, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

What is this course about?

This course is designed to give students an understanding of the relationship between the brain and behaviour. Topics will encompass neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neurochemistry, and their relationship to development and regulation of behaviour (i.e. “basic behaviours”). Class will meet three times a week, and will include lectures, discussions, and in-class demonstrations.

This course will also have an on-line component on CourseSpaces. You will need your netlink ID and password to log-in. Lecture slides will be posted the morning of the class.

Before you take this course, make sure you have completed the following:

- Psyc 100A and 100B;
OR
- 1.5 units of BIOL course, OR one of EPHE 141, EPHE 241, EPHE 242
AND
- minimum second-year standing

Students who have not completed these prerequisites but chose to remain in the course do so at their own risk. Completion of this course does NOT exempt students from completing the prerequisites required for the degree program!

*Please note that the course drop deadline is **August 3rd!** It is the student's responsibility to check their registration status by the drop deadline to ensure they are registered only in courses they have been attending!*

Materials: What you will need for this course

Recommended text:

Breedlove, S.M., & Watson, N.V., Biological Psychology (7th edition) Sinauer 2013.
(Both the TA and the Instructor have desk copies available for browsing).

Lectures will be used to emphasize, demonstrate and clarify topics in the textbook, as well as provide additional information not covered in the textbook. That said, the textbook will greatly enhance your understanding of course materials, thus it is **extremely** recommended that you obtain it.

What is Expected of You

Attend class regularly. Attending class regularly will increase your exposure and your understanding of human perception by engaging with, and discussing material. Learning theory shows the more in-depth you think about something, the better it is committed to memory!

Whereas attendance will not be taken, it is the student's responsibility to attend lectures to fully benefit from in-class participation; absences will not be acceptable excuses for missing content or instructions.

Check the CourseSpaces website often. All of the course materials will be available through CourseSpaces (<http://coursespaces.uvic.ca>). Let CourseSpaces be your guide; announcements, deadlines, lecture notes, instructions, grading criteria - everything you need will be on CourseSpaces. You can sign into CourseSpaces using your NetLink ID.

Conduct yourself appropriately. We are all very diverse and have different values, beliefs, and opinions. Please maintain an open mind to these differences when interacting with others, and remain respectful at all times. Respect also includes creating an environment conducive to learning, which means **being on time, not leaving class early, turning off cell phones, listening, not speaking to others during lecture, and only using computers to take notes and not to check e-mail or surf the web.**

Provide constructive feedback. We are always looking for ways to improve the course to facilitate learning. You are highly encouraged to provide constructive feedback about your experiences in the course. Please see us in office hours to discuss your concerns or suggestions.

Let us know if there are any special circumstances. We all learn in different ways and with varying degrees of success. If you know of any factors in your life that hinder your ability to learn up to your potential in this course, please contact the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD; <http://www.rcsd.uvic.ca>), and/or let us know at once.

What Can Be Expected of Us

We are available to help. If you have any questions regarding course content, or would like to discuss course material, we are available to help via e-mail and office hours. Please be advised the TA has no power to change grades or postpone due-dates. The TA is a learning resource. When e-mailing the Instructor or the TA, please include "215A" in your subject headline.

With respect to course content (i.e. deadlines, grades, requirements, etc.) check the course syllabus, notes, ask classmates, and go on CourseSpaces to check for the answer to your question first. If you have more detailed or complicated questions, please feel free to attend office hours. The Instructor will be available during office hours to discuss your grades, understanding of the material, or discuss more general topics about psychology, whereas the TA can provide assistance in learning/understanding course material.

We will upload lecture notes on CourseSpaces. Because I am continuously making improvements to the lecture slides before class, a pre-lecture version will be posted the morning of the class. In light of any potential clarifications made to slides during class, a finalized version will be posted on CourseSpaces *after* class.

We will give and receive feedback. Both the TA and Instructor will be available in office hours to give feedback on midterms. We are also open to receiving constructive feedback about your experiences with the course.

How will your progress be evaluated?

Final grades will be based on the following criteria:

Percent of Grade	Evaluation Tool	Date(s)
33%	Mid-term #1	July 18 th
33%	Mid-term #2	Aug 3 rd
33%	Mid-term #3	Aug 19 th
3%	Bonus	August 19 th

Grading Criteria

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

Midterms

Midterms will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, definition and diagram questions. Your best midterm weight will be increased to 40% (+7%), and your worst midterm weight will be decreased to 26% (-7%).

Midterm Policies

You are responsible for attending exams as scheduled. If you miss an exam due to illness/accident or a death in the family, you must supply documentation for your absence (i.e. doctor's note) within 5 days of missing the exam, however **the doctor's note must be dated the day of the midterm! No doctor's notes dated retroactively will be accepted!** If documentation is approved, then a make-up examination will be scheduled. Please note that make-up exams will not necessarily include the same questions as the mid-term.

All grades will be posted on CourseSpaces following each midterm. Please take the time to check this posting to make sure the grade is correct.

What Else Can You Do to Do Well in This Course?

Create study groups. Teaching others can be just as helpful as being tested – being able to explain a concept well enough for others to learn is not only helpful to them, but also helps you realize how much you know. Meeting regularly in small groups to work through the material together can be beneficial to all parties involved.

Attend office hours. If you're having a hard time understanding something please don't struggle on your own – we're here to help! If you can't make office hours, you can always e-mail us to set up alternative times to meet. You are encouraged to use office hours to facilitate understanding of the course material, to review midterms, or to seek assistance with course content.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings
1-2	Introduction	
	Functional Neuroanatomy	Ch 2
	Neurophysiology	Ch 3
	Neurotransmitters	Ch 4
	Hormones	Ch 5
	Midterm #1	July 18 th
3-5	Evolution	Ch 6
	Life-Span Devel.	Ch 7
	Motor Control	Ch 11
	Midterm #2	Aug 3 rd
5-6	Homeostasis	Ch 13
	Bio. Rhythms	Ch 14
	Emotions	Ch 15
	Sex	Ch 12
	Midterm #3	Aug 19 th

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 2015-16.

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 an exam other than one scheduled during the formal exam period

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 miss an exam during the formal exam period

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 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 formal examination period. 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 2015-16).

The definitive source for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar (p. 54-57 in 2015-16) (<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>