

PSYC 271: Brain and Behavior I  
Fall 2016

**Course Instructor**

Name: Amanda C. Maracle  
Email: [am218@queensu.ca](mailto:am218@queensu.ca)  
Office: Craine Hall, Room:403  
Office Hours: TBD

**Course TAs**

Name: Meghan McKay  
Email: [14mnm4@queensu.ca](mailto:14mnm4@queensu.ca)  
Name: Tanya Tran  
Email: [tanya.tran@queensu.ca](mailto:tanya.tran@queensu.ca)

**Lecture Times**

Mondays 5:30 – 7:00pm  
Wednesday 5:30 – 7:00pm

**Lecture Location**

Etherington AUD

**Learning Outcomes**

The objectives for PSYC 271 are to introduce you to behavioral neuroscience. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to;

1. Demonstrate knowledge the basics of neuronal operation, functional neuroanatomy, neuropharmacology, input/output systems, and lateralization of function.
2. Understand the importance of ethical conduct and methods used in behavioral neuroscience.
3. Demonstrate effective communication of scientific information from primary sources.

**Course Materials**

**Copyright.** The course material including lecture notes, activities, quiz materials, etc., is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in PSYC 271. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in PSYC 271. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

**Required Materials.**

Pinel, P.J., (2014). *Biopsychology* (9<sup>th</sup> Ed.) Pearson Education. ISBN-10: 0205994709. ISBN-13: 9780205994700.

*Supplementary readings will be available online through the Queens Library website (<http://library.queensu.ca>), or on the OnQ course page.*

**Web Content**

Additional information for this course will be available on the web via the online course management platform OnQ. OnQ can be accessed from the main queen's webpage, by clicking "Search and Sign In". The web content will consist of lecture notes, activity materials, electronic message boards for course questions, a list of supplemental course readings, auxiliary study materials, and links to web pages with further information on selected topics. The OnQ message board is intended only as a forum for posting questions and discussing topics related to PSYC 271 course material. Messages pertaining to inappropriate topics or subjects unrelated to PSYC 271 content will be deleted, and if those messages are deemed harassing, abusive, or insulting, disciplinary action will be taken (see the section below entitled "Academic Integrity").

Because students' questions tend to be similar, **please post your queries in the appropriate OnQ forum rather than emailing the TAs or the instructor directly.** The TAs and the instructor will check the forums regularly and will respond to your questions there. This

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way everyone in the class has access to the same information. If you do email questions that should have been posted in an appropriate forum, you will be directed to post your question to OnQ in order to receive a reply.

### **Lectures**

There are two 90 min lectures each week. Before attending each lecture, you should be familiar with the assigned reading material for that week. Given the volume and complexity of information that will be covered over the course of each term, the lectures will be designed to build on your understanding of concepts learned through reading and self-exploration of topics. While the majority of topics covered in class will overlap with the textbook, there will be cases in which topics will be covered in one but not the other. **It is your responsibility to read and be familiar with all of the course material.**

### **Evaluation**

You are responsible for all lecture and online activity material and all corresponding material in the texts and posted to OnQ. You are expected to write the final exam as scheduled and complete forums and quizzes by the indicated due date. Exceptions will be made only under relevant circumstances, and when appropriate written documentation is provided.

#### ***Online Activities***

Student interaction within their learning environment adds to the overall learning process and improves understanding and application of the material covered. In an online. One of the ways to achieve this is through participation in discussion groups where students are able to review each other's work, ask questions, provide clarification and feedback, and critically assess topics posed by the Instructor and/or peers. Students are also able to test out their ideas, receive feedback from TAs, and clarify their understanding in this environment.

Your online participation will take place via forum activities and comprehension quizzes. Combined these activities will make up 30% of your final grade. These activities are designed to help you understand and consolidate the material covered in the course, as well as prepare you for the midterm and final exams.

#### ***Forum Activities.***

The forum activities will include discussion questions, literature review, and content reviews. In the case of content reviews. Discussion questions will be posed by the instructor and will be graded on the quality of contribution and overall participation. Literature reviews will provide you with an opportunity to communicate scientific information to your peers, and will be graded based on clarity, conciseness, and quality of contribution. For content reviews you will be asked to generate your own multiple choice or short answer questions based on the course material covered in the current unit. Your classmates will then have an opportunity to answer your questions, provide and receive feedback, and nominate questions for inclusion in formal assessments. That is, excellent questions generated by you and your classmates may be included on the midterm and final exam.

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***Comprehension Quizzes.***

Over the course of the semester you will be responsible for completing comprehension quizzes designed to test your understanding of concepts covered in both the readings and lectures. In total there are 3 comprehension quizzes (each worth 5%), that will be available for completion on OnQ for **four days** following a major section of the lecture material. These quizzes provide you with an opportunity to review your understanding of the course material between In Class Test I, II, and the Final Exam. Each quiz should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. These quizzes will test your understanding of key theoretical concepts outlined in the lectures and readings, and may include definitions, multiple choice, matching, and T/F.

***In Class Tests***

There are two in class tests which will be held in class on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Each in class test is worth 15% of your final grade. Student are expected to write the tests as scheduled, and should consider the in class test to be a midterm style evaluation. If you are unable to write either of the in class tests due to extreme extenuating circumstances, you must provide appropriate documentation of your reasons and receive permission from the instructor **BEFORE** 5:00pm the day before the scheduled test.

***Final Exam.*** There is one final exam worth 40% of your final grade. Students are expected to write the final exam as scheduled by the exams office, and you must write the final exam to pass this course (i.e., if you do not write the exam, you will receive a failing mark for the class regardless of your performance on the other components of the course). If you are unable to write the final exam during the scheduled time, appropriate documentation of your reasons for not writing the exam must be submitted to and approved by the instructor **BEFORE** 5:00pm the day before the scheduled exam. Please read the section below labeled “Psychology Departmental Policies” for more information about the procedure for exam deferral.

***Remarking.*** If you believe that an error was made in grading of one of your forum activities, quizzes, tests, or the final exam, you must complete the re-marking form available for download from OnQ. All remarking requests should be made to your TA. On the form, you must specify if there are specific items in dispute, or if you are requesting that the whole assessment be remarked, the nature of the error and, if necessary, supporting documentation to defend your position. Please note that the re-marked grade will stand as the final mark even if it is lower.

**Grading Scheme**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Percent Grade</b>
FORUMS	5 Activities (3% each)	15%
QUIZZES	3 Quizzes (5% each)	15%
IN CLASS TESTS	2 Tests (15% each)	30%
FINAL EXAM		40%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>

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**Grading Method.** In this course, all components will be graded using numerical percentage marks, which will be used to calculate your final course grade. This grade will then be converted into a final letter grade using the Faculty of Arts and Science approved scale based on the Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale.

Assignment Mark	Numerical Value for Calculation of Final Mark
A+	93
A	87
A-	82
B+	78
B	75
B-	72
C+	68
C	65
C-	62
D+	58
D	55
D-	52
F48 (F+)	48
F24 (F)	24
F0 (0)	0

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-55
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

### Appointments

We strongly recommend that you take advantage of opportunities to set up appointments with both the TAs and the instructor of this course. Questions before, during, or after class are always welcome, and simple questions outside of class time should be posted on OnQ for the benefit of everyone. However, if you have a question that may take some time to answer, we recommend meeting with TA, or the instructor. **If you are having trouble understanding lecture or textbook material, please see someone well in advance of the exam or assignment due dates. Waiting until the last minute is not a wise strategy!**

### Psychology Departmental Policies

**Academic Integrity.** Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see [www.academicintegrity.org](http://www.academicintegrity.org)). These values are central to building, nurturing, and sustaining an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html>).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available on the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 at <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1>), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/academic-integrity>), and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic

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integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions that contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment, to failure of a course, to requirement to withdraw from the university.

Discriminatory, rude, threatening, harassing, disruptive, distracting, and inappropriate behavior or language will not be tolerated in class or in laboratories regardless of the context in which such actions occur (i.e., in person, in email, on OnQ, etc.). Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulation concerning academic misconduct. Information on misconduct in an academic or non-academic setting is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 17 at <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-17>). Actions that contravene the regulation on misconduct carry sanctions that can range from a statement of apology, loss of grades, failure of a course, or requirement to withdraw from the university.

***Accommodation After the Fact.*** Once a student has written an exam or submitted an assignment, they may not subsequently be granted accommodation such as being offered a second opportunity to write the exam or assignment or have it count for less than originally specified in the course syllabus (reweighted). **Students who cannot perform to the best of their abilities due a serious, extenuating circumstance must inform their instructor before attempting an exam or completing an assignment to arrange appropriate accommodation.** Appeals to change a grade after the fact must be made to the Associate Dean (Studies) and will only be supported by the department in exceptional circumstances.

***Support Services.*** If you find yourself struggling to complete assignments due to feelings of anxiety or being overwhelmed by your school responsibilities, please make an appointment with Queens Student Wellness Services (SWS) immediately. Do not wait until the week of exams. You can find their office on the second floor of the LaSalle Building, 146 Stuart Street, or you can contact them at 613-533-0000 x75154 to set up an appointment. They have counsellors trained to assist you with anxiety, depression, and stress relief techniques, and they can determine whether or not you require special accommodations.

***Accessibility.*** Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Queens Student Accessibility Services Office (QSAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the QSAS website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services>.

***Exam Absence.*** Students who cannot write the final exam during the December exam period due to a serious, extenuating circumstance (illness, death in the family) must follow the steps below to be eligible to write a deferred exam during the PSYC department's make up exam period in January, April, and September.

1. Obtain permission from their instructor to write a deferred exam. This requires notifying

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your instructor in advance or, under extraordinary circumstances, within 72 hours after, the exam, with appropriate documentation. Appropriate documentation includes a signed letter from a registered health professional, Queens SWS, or documentation of a death such as a bulletin from a memorial service, obituary (newspaper or online) or funeral home letter. Official documents will be copied and originals returned to the student. \*Note\* that the PSYC department randomly checks document authenticity and that fraudulent documents will be grounds for a finding of a major departure from academic integrity. Please use the [Request for Exam Deferral form](#) and attach your documentation.

2. Complete and return the instructor-signed [Permission for an Incomplete Grade](#) form available on the Arts and Science website and return to the UG office.
3. Be available to write the makeup exam the PSYC department's make up exam period in January, April/May or September or receive '0' on the exam.

\*NOTE\*: Students who do not write the makeup exam are advised to drop the course. If a student cannot write the makeup exam due to a serious extenuating circumstance for which they can provide new documentation, they will either be granted a second deferral by their instructor or be supported in their appeal to drop the course after the deadline though this decision rests with the Associate Dean (Studies).

***Learning Disabilities.*** Even at this stage in your academic career, you could unknowingly suffer from a learning problem that may affect your performance in this class. If you are uncertain, SWS can diagnose you. The waiting list can get rather long, so you should make an appointment (see Support Services above) to be tested as soon as possible.

***Special Accommodations.*** If you qualify to receive special accommodations, please notify the Head TA right away. The midterm exam is held during regular class time, so QSAS does not provide accommodations (unlike for exams held during the fall and winter exam period). Therefore, for this exam your instructor will provide the accommodation, and the sooner we are aware of the need, the more able we will be to provide it.

***Religious Observances.*** All religious observances that conflict with an assignment due date, or exam, must be declared by **Friday, September 30, 2016**. Please contact the instructor and include the date and nature of the observance in your correspondence. Failure to declare your need for accommodation by this deadline means that your absence will not be excused and/or you will not be accommodated with an alternative due date or exam date.

***Travel During Exams.*** According to university regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods as well as during any scheduled class times. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) or requests to miss an in class exam due to other plans will NOT be considered except under extraordinary circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final exam schedules are posted before making any travel arrangements.