

PSYC 370 F2017 Syllabus

Course Description

This course examines the relationship between brain and behaviour. The first part of the course examines topics relevant to brain plasticity, including neurodevelopment, brain damage and learning and memory; followed by a section on the biopsychology of motivation that covers the neural mechanisms of eating, sexual behaviour and sleep. The final section deals with disorders of cognition and emotion, including drug addiction, stress and psychiatric disorders.

Psychology 370 is a course designed to continue your exploration of the field of Biopsychology. It primarily focuses on the underlying neural mechanisms of some of the most interesting and complex human behaviours. From how the brain develops, to our basic motivations, to how catastrophically the brain can fail us, this course delves into many different aspects of brain and behaviour.

Learning Outcomes

- Build upon the key principles of biopsychology presented in PSYC 271, with a focus on higher cognitive processing.
- Gain an understanding of the complexity of brain and behaviour interactions and how both nature and nurture play important roles.
- Learn to critically evaluate new research in the field of biopsychology.

Key Dates

Sep 1	Tuition due
Sep 11	Classes start
Sep 22	Last day to add courses Last day to drop courses without financial penalty
Nov 3	Last day to drop courses without academic penalty
Nov 7	Last day to change exam centre location Last day to submit accommodations to CDS
Dec 1	Classes end
Dec 7-21	Examinations

Course Materials

Available from the [Queen's Campus Bookstore](#):

- *Biopsychology*, 10th Edition, by John P.J. Pinel, with accompanying REVEL access ISBN **9780134797168**
- *OR*
- *Biopsychology*, 9th edition, by John. P.J. Pinel

For this offering of PSYC 370, either the 9th or the 10th edition of the textbook is suitable, as most students will have one of these 2 textbooks from taking the prerequisite, PSYC 271. If you have proof of purchase of the 9th edition of the textbook, Pearson has agreed to provide free access to the 10th edition e-text and REVEL. Details about this process will be posted on the first day of the course.

The only package available at the bookstore is ISBN **9780134797168**. When you purchase this package, it will include both a physical copy of the textbook in loose leaf (it's better than a photocopy, it's publisher quality except it is on 3 hole punched paper) and access to the online text through REVEL.

One of the important changes to this newest edition of the textbook is that embedded within the text are a number of videos and simulations. So, as you are reading through a particular section in the physical copy of the text, you may come across a video that will need be accessed through REVEL. If you are using the online text, then you are already in REVEL and can just click on the video. Please note, you will need to make sure pop-ups are allowed in order for the multimedia to work properly.

This course uses a Pearson digital product which contains resources used throughout the semester. The required link below is unique to this course. Here is how to register:

Visit this link: <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/zvasrm>

Sign in with your Pearson Account. You can either: sign in with an existing Pearson username and password OR create a new Pearson account if this is your first Pearson digital product.

If you already had access to REVEL (from PSYC 271) when you go to the new REVEL invitation link for PSYC370, you will simply be added to the new REVEL course without being prompted for another access code as long as you use the same username and password as you did for PSYC271.

Choose your course under 'My Courses' and choose an access option. It is recommended that you purchase an access code from your campus bookstore for redemption here. Queen's Campus Bookstore is a non-profit organization, and provides the best value to students. Purchasing instant access in REVEL may result in extra fees associated with currency exchange. There is also a free trial if you are waiting for financial aid.

What you should know:

- Bookmark <https://console.pearson.com> to easily access your materials.

- Pearson recommends using the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, or Safari with this digital product.
- Contact your instructor if you lose the invite link.

Third Party Policy

This course makes use of [REVEL](#) for some activities. Be aware that by logging into the site, you will be leaving onQ, and accessing the [REVEL](#) website. Your independent use of that site, *beyond what is required for the course (for example, purchasing the company's products)*, is subject to Pearson Education's terms of use and privacy policy. You are encouraged to review these documents, using the link(s) below, before using the site.

<http://www.pearsoncanada.ca/pearson-canada-at-a-glance/legal/privacy-statement>

Timeline

The link to the Course Timeline is located in the navigation bar below the course banner. It shows all relevant course dates, including assessments, as well as links to other important course information. As dates may change, you should consult the Timeline each time you login to the course.

If there are discrepancies between dates in the course onQ site, the Timeline will be considered accurate.

All times are in Kingston Local Time.

Weighting of Assessments

Icebreaker	2.5%
Midterm	15%
Group Debate Forum	20%
Essay	12.5%
Final Proctored Exam	50%

Assessments Description

Course Icebreaker

To start off the course, all students will be required to submit an answer to an Icebreaker question. It will be only worth 2.5% of the total grade and based on participation/submission only. This assignment is designed both for you to think about biopsychology as a discipline and for the marking team to get to know you. More details on the icebreaker can be accessed through OnQ under Graded Assessments or the link below.

[Course Icebreaker Forum](#)

Midterm

The second evaluation for the course will be an online multiple choice midterm. It will consist of 30 questions and be worth 15% of the final grade. The midterm will cover Modules 1,2 and 3. Further details on the midterm can be accessed through the Midterm icon on OnQ under Graded Assessments or the link below.

[Midterm Information](#)

Group Debate Forum

Each student will be assigned to either a “FOR” or “AGAINST” position and will participate in a Group Debate based on the information in Module 5. This debate assignment consists of 3 different parts: uploading an original post onto a discussion forum, reading other group members' posts, posting comments on the forum and then submitting an individual final paper. This will hopefully result in some lively discussion/debate. In total, this group project will be worth 20% of your final grade (5% for the original post, 5% for the comments and 10% for the final paper). For more details on this Group Debate Assignment, please look under the Group Debate icon on OnQ under Graded Assessments or the link below.

[Group Debate Description](#)

Essay Assignment

Students must also complete one written essay assignment. The assignment consists of 1 long-answer/essay question from Module 8 and it is worth 12.5% of your final grade. For more details on this Essay Assignment, please look under the Essay Assignment icon on OnQ under Graded Assessments or the link below.

[Essay Assignment Description](#)

Final Exam

The 3-hour final exam will be written during the Exam Period (Dec 26-29). It will consist of 100 Multiple Choice Questions, covering the entire course and is worth 50% of your final grade. For more details on the Final Exam, please look under the Final Exam icon on OnQ under Graded Assessments or the link below.

[Final Exam Information](#)

PLEASE NOTE: You must PASS the final exam in order to pass the course.

Once the exam schedule has been finalized the exam date will be posted on your SOLUS account. Students living in the Kingston area will write their final exam on Queen's campus. Students writing off campus will receive an email to their Queen's email account with full details of date/time/location of their exam. Please note: off campus exams will be held on the same day as Kingston exams, but the **start time** may vary slightly due to the requirements of the off-campus exam centre.

When you registered for the course, you indicated the exam centre location. If you do not remember the exam location you chose, or if you wish to change your exam location, please email: [cgs@queensu.ca](mailto:cds@queensu.ca) or call 613-533-3322. The deadline for changing your exam centre can be found at http://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/e-learning/completing-your-course. You must request the change prior to this deadline or you will be subject to a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00 per exam.

All special needs students should contact CDS, immediately following registration to inform them of any special accommodations which may be required for proctored exams. For further information regarding exams, see: http://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/e-learning/completing-your-course

How To Approach the Material

What Does Taking this Course Look Like?

PLEASE NOTE: In order to schedule the assessments evenly across the term, the chapters of the textbook will not be covered in sequential order. Please see the Course Timeline for more details.

Each Module is made up of a set of resources including:

- Textbook readings - a chapter from Pinel's 9th or 10th edition Biopsychology
- Module course notes-link found on the Course Homepage or Course Timeline
- Online videos, demonstrations or exercises through the e-textbook (REVEL) and other websites including youtube.com -links on the Course Timeline
- Current journal articles – these can be accessed directly by going to the Timeline Icon on the Course Homepage (Please note: sometimes only the abstract appears and you must press the Article button in order to see the full text). For examination purposes, I will not be asking specific details about these experiments but you should know the hypothesis, general experimental design and conclusions.

The **Course Notes** are an important feature of your online course, but for PSYC 370 are quite brief. Especially for those students who took PSYC 271 with me, these notes are quite different! Basically, they introduce the topic, detail the objectives, attempt to place the topic in the larger research area and highlight some interesting research in the area that is not covered in the textbook.

As this is a third-year course, you are expected to bring with you a certain level of knowledge about the brain and its behaviour. You may choose to review some basic neuroanatomy and neurophysiology (found in Chapters 3 and 4 of the textbook) before starting to work on the course material.

Throughout the course, as well as the textbook, four major themes are repeated and should be kept in mind when studying the material.

- **Thinking creatively** or thinking in productive, unconventional ways is the cornerstone of science and there are many research examples of this principle in Biopsychology.

- Much of what we have learned about the brain has come from various patient populations, so this course also has strong **clinical implications** that highlight the interplay between brain dysfunction and biopsychology.
- There is also an important **evolutionary perspective** that must be considered in biopsychological research, especially with comparative studies.
- Much of the research covered in Psychology 370 is influenced by principles of **neuroplasticity**: that the brain is a 'plastic' organ that grows and responds to an individual's genes and environment.

Contacting the Teaching Team

The teaching team contact information is located on the Homepage of the course (see "Teaching Team").

For general questions about the course, please post to the Questions discussion forum topic, (located in the upper right corner of the homepage of the course). All students, TAs and the professor will be able to read and respond to questions on this forum. Feel free to help answer your peers' questions on this forum.

Please use your Queen's email for inquiries that are more personal in nature, or for issues such as academic accommodations, marking, or concerns of a personal nature. If you need to have a more detailed conversation, please schedule a phone meeting with your instructor.