

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to behavioural neuroscience. The course primarily focuses on the basics of neuronal operation, functional neuroanatomy, neuropharmacology, and behavioral neuroscience methods. This will be followed by an examination of input (sensory) and output (motor) systems of the brain. Finally, topics relevant to learning and memory formation will be covered.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100/6.0.

What this course will look like:

You will notice that this course follows a modular structure in which you will find each week of the course. Each week is complete with readings, interactive course notes, videos, non-graded self-check activities, and assessments. Together, these instructional materials will help you work through key concepts and provide you with ample opportunity to refine your skills. At the top of each week, you will find the learning outcomes and all supporting content listed below it. You must complete all required tasks for each week.

Textbook Material:

Reading the textbook is very important for you to obtain the foundational knowledge that is required for the course and is critical for all assessment components.

Interactive Course Notes:

The interactive course notes are designed to cover the difficult and important topics for the week, and extend upon the current week's material. This extension will consist of discussing other research findings related to the topic (i.e., research not covered in the textbook), as well as discuss the applicability of the material to society as a whole. All content contained in the interactive lesson notes, including the videos, is required for the course and is critical for all assessment components. Videos labelled as "optional" will not be used for assessment purposes.

Course Video Library:

As mentioned above, all videos within the interactive course notes are a required component of this course. All content contained within the videos is critical for all assessment components. As an additional study tool, we have created a comprehensive list of all course videos, organized by module. You can locate the Course Video Library by navigating to the top navigation bar on your onQ course home page under "modules".

Live Zoom Sessions:

This course includes three optional live Zoom sessions. While participation is not required, you are encouraged to attend, as the sessions provide opportunities to discuss difficult concepts, ask any questions you may have, and review for the final exam. Dates and times for each Zoom session are listed in Course Timeline. If you are not able to attend a session, you may post your questions ahead of time to the Live Zoom Session Questions discussion forum to ensure they are answered during the session. The recordings of all the sessions will be posted on the page after they are over.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Queen's University is situated on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Territory. To acknowledge this traditional territory is to recognize its longer history, one predating the establishment of the earliest European colonies. It is also to acknowledge this territory's significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived, and continue to live, upon it – people whose practices and spiritualities were tied to the land and continue to develop in relationship to the territory and its other inhabitants today. The Kingston Indigenous community continues to reflect the area's Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee roots. There is also a significant Métis community and there are First Peoples from other Nations across Turtle Island present here today.

EQUITY STATEMENT

Queen's University recognizes that the values of equity and diversity are vital to and in harmony with its educational mission and standards of excellence. It acknowledges that direct, indirect, and systemic discrimination exists within our institutional structures, policies, and practices and in our community. These take many forms and work to differentially advantage and disadvantage persons across social identities such as race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, faith, and socioeconomic status, among other examples.

UNIVERSITY OPERATING DATES

Sep 30	Tuition due
Sep 7	Classes start
Sep 20	Last day to add courses
Sep 20	Last day to drop courses without financial penalty
Nov 1	Last day to drop without academic penalty
TBD	Last day to submit exam accommodation requests (if applicable)
Dec 3	Classes end
Dec 8-22	Exam Period

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Summarize the foundations of biopsychology including evolution, neuroanatomy, and neuropharmacology.
2. Describe the process of neural communication.
3. Explain the neural mechanisms of learning and memory.
4. Outline primary research methods in biopsychology.
5. Recall and recognize sensory processing in visual, auditory, olfactory, taste, and somatosensory systems. Relate motor system function to sensory processing in humans.

COURSE MATERIALS

The following material is available from the Queen's Campus Bookstore:

The required textbook for this course is called:

Biopsychology, 11th Edition, by John P.J. Pinel & Steven Barnes, with accompanying REVEL access which is available through the Queens Campus Bookstore.

Please note:

- If you choose to buy an older edition of this textbook, please note that (1) you are responsible for all of the information in the 11th edition, and (2) you may be unable to access any of the optional online resources.”

Please also note:

- The package that is included in the printed copy of Biopsychology + REVEL is no longer available. The eText has replaced the package. eTexts are available in-store at the Campus Bookstore or from their website under the Access Code Search Engine.

REVEL

This course may make 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>

To purchase the REVEL access code eText, please go to

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/pdepef>

Once you have purchased the access code, you will need to register for the REVEL software within your eText. To do so, please follow the steps outlined in Revel Student Registration explaining the registration process.

Third Party Policy

This course makes use of Pearson REVEL for some activities. Be aware that by logging into the site, you will be leaving onQ, and accessing the site, beyond what is required for the course (for example, purchasing the company's products), is subject to Pearson REVEL 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 Course Timeline 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 log in to the course.

Please note, some students may see an onQ Calendar for their course. However, the onQ calendar does not display all dates associated with your course assignments. For complete information all of your assignments in this course and the start and close dates, please refer to the **Course Timeline**.

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

All times are in Kingston time (Eastern Time).

SUGGESTED TIME COMMITMENT

Students can expect to spend approximately 9 hours a week in study/practice and online activity for this course.

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Weight	Alignment with LOs
Essay Part 1 - Proposal	7.5%	CLO 1,4
Essay Part 2 - Summary and Critical Analysis (full paper)	15%	CLO 1,4
Discussion Forum 1	5%	CLO 2,4
Discussion Forum 2	5%	CLO 1,4
Bi-weekly Quizzes (best 5 of 6)	17.5% (3.5% each)	CLO 1,2,3,4,5
Proctored Final Exam	50%	CLO 1,2,3,4,5
Participant Pool	2.5% (bonus credit)	

ASSESSMENTS AND ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION

Essay

This course will include a two-part essay. For part 1, you will locate and briefly summarize a primary research article that covers a topic within biopsychology/behavioural neuroscience. Part 2 of the essay will require an expansion of this proposal, providing a more in-depth summary and critical analysis of the article. More information about Essay Part 1 and Essay Part 2 can be found in the Course Timeline.

Discussion Forums

There are two discussion forums in this course. The discussions will allow you to interact with the whole class to explore key topics, perspectives, and applications of concepts to real-world practice. More information about each discussion forum can be found in the Course Timeline.

Bi-weekly Quizzes

There will be 6 bi-weekly quizzes in this course, each covering 2 weeks of content (Quiz #1 will only cover 1 (the first) week of the course). Your best 5 quiz scores out of the 6 quizzes will be counted toward your final grade. The bi-weekly quizzes are designed to help you practice and apply your knowledge of the course concepts to gauge your understanding of the material.

Final Exam

This course will include a cumulative final proctored exam, which will cover all content covered from Weeks 1 through 12.

Proctored Exams

When you registered for the course, you indicated the exam centre location.

- Students who have on-campus courses (or course sections) will write their final exams in-person and on-campus. These final exams will be administered* through the central Exams Office.
- Students who have courses (or course sections) that are remote or online, but who have other on-campus courses (or course sections) in their timetable, will write all of their final exams in-person and on-campus. These final exams will be administered* through the central Exams Office.
- Students who have only remote or online courses (or course sections) in their timetable, and who require remote proctoring, will have their exams proctored using Examity.

Remote Proctoring (if applicable)

Selected assessments in this course will use remote proctoring provided by Examity, which is a third-party, cloud-based service that enables the completion of a proctored exam or test from an off-campus location, through onQ. This cloud-based proctoring solution was chosen as part of the approach to maintaining academic integrity when remote proctoring is required.

Queen's has conducted an extensive privacy and security review of Examity and has entered into a binding agreement with terms that address the appropriate collection, use and disclosure of personal information in accordance with Ontario's privacy legislation. You should also take measures yourself to protect your information by keeping your NetID password and challenge questions private, closing all applications prior to starting an exam/test, and ensuring your device is updated and safeguarded against malware. For more information about remote proctoring, please see <http://www.queensu.ca/registrar/students/examinations/exams-office-services/remote-proctoring>

The ASO Exams team will contact you with more information regarding the use of Examity and the technical requirements that you will need to meet. You will also be asked to provide the time zone in which you will be located at the time of your exam.

You will also be offered an opportunity to practice logging into Examity in order to familiarize yourself with the online proctoring experience. Precise details about how remote proctoring will be used in this course can be found in the "Getting Started with Remote Proctoring" content module in onQ.

Location and Timing of Final Examinations

Once the exam schedule has been finalized the exam date will be posted on your SOLUS account. The exam dates for each Term are listed on the Faculty of Arts and Science webpage under "Important Dates." Student exam schedules for the Fall Term are posted via SOLUS immediately prior to the Thanksgiving holiday; for the Winter Term they are posted on the Friday before Reading Week, and for the Summer Term they are individually noted on the Arts and Science Online syllabi. **Students should delay finalizing any travel plans until *after* the examination schedule has been posted. Exams will *not* be moved or deferred to accommodate employment, travel/holiday plans or flight reservations.**

Calculator Policy (if applicable)

As noted in Academic Regulation 9.2, "Calculators acceptable for use during quizzes, tests and examinations are intended to support the basic calculating functions required by most Arts and Science courses. For this purpose, the use of the Casio 991 series calculator is permitted and is the only approved calculator for Arts and Science students."

GRADING

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

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	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

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 Course Questions Forum.

Email is my preferred method of contact. Please enter “PSYC 271” in subject line. Please note that I respond to emails within approximately 48 hours (although usually the same day), Monday to Friday, generally between 9 and 5pm.

Feel free to help answer your peers’ questions on this forum. Most questions are answered within 24 hours.

Please use your Queen’s email for inquires that are more personal in nature, or for issues such as academic accommodations or marking. If you need to have a more detailed conversation, please contact your instructor.

COURSE FEEDBACK

At various points during the course, students may be asked to take part in a variety of feedback activities (such as questionnaires and exit tickets).

This feedback enables the team to make any adjustments necessary to improve the online learning environment. Additional student feedback will be sought throughout the course. All surveys are anonymous, and directly related to activities, assessments, and other course material.

NETIQUETTE

In any course you often communicate with your peers and teaching team through electronic communication. You are expected to use the utmost respect in your dealings with your colleagues or when participating in activities, discussions, and online communication.

Here is a list of netiquette guidelines. Please read them carefully and use them to guide your communication in this course and beyond.

1. Make a personal commitment to learn about, understand, and support your peers.
2. Assume the best of others and expect the best of them.
3. Acknowledge the impact of oppression on the lives of other people and make sure your writing is respectful and inclusive.

4. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings.
5. Pay close attention to what your peers write before you respond. Think through and re-read your writings before you post or send them to others.
6. It's ok to disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks.
7. Be open to being challenged or confronted on your ideas and to challenging others with the intent of facilitating growth. Do not demean or embarrass others.
8. Encourage others to develop and share their ideas.

QUEEN'S EMAIL

The university communicates with students via Queen's email. Please check your email regularly to ensure you do not miss important information related to your course.

LATE ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION POLICY

All assignments are submitted through the course onQ in in .doc(x) format. Emailed assignments are not accepted and will not be graded. Students may access MS word via Microsoft 365: <https://www.queensu.ca/its/software/available-software/microsoft-365-apps-enterprise/tutorials/office-windows>.

Unreadable/corrupt/empty/incomplete files or files that are not in the required format will be considered late and penalized accordingly until the assignment is properly submitted. Students are not permitted to revise their submissions in any manner once the deadline is passed. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their document is (1) readable and (2) in the correct format.

In the interest of Universal Design for Learning, students are allotted a 48-hour grace-period for submission of part 1 and part 2 of the essay, and both discussion questions. Submissions after these deadlines will be subject to a 15% penalty per day and will not be accepted or eligible for credit after 3 days.

COPYRIGHT

Course materials created by the course instructor, including all slides, presentations, handouts, tests, exams, and other similar course materials, are the intellectual property of the instructor. It is a departure from academic integrity to distribute, publicly post, sell or otherwise disseminate an instructor's course materials or to provide an instructor's course materials to anyone else for distribution, posting, sale or other means of dissemination, without the instructor's express consent. A student who engages in such conduct may subject to penalty for a departure from academic integrity and may also face adverse legal consequences for infringement of intellectual property rights.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

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.

The Senate Policy for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities was approved at Senate in November 2016. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please visit the QSAS website

Students with course accommodations should send their accommodation requests to ASO and their instructor as soon as possible to make the appropriate arrangements, using the widget located on the course homepage.

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS IN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Assignments, discussions, and tests in this course have been designed with flexibility for academic consideration for all students. This means that "Short term Requests for Academic Consideration" (submitted through the Faculty of Arts and Science portal without documentation) are not needed and long-term requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis if needed.

To submit a Request for Academic Consideration, go to: <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/undergrad-students/academic-consideration-for-students>.

After you submit your request, it is essential that you contact your instructor(s) to discuss arrangements for completing the academic requirements that you have missed.

Academic consideration is meant to help you manage a **short-term** extenuating circumstance that is beyond your control and could affect your academics. This might be a sudden physical or mental illness, a serious injury or required treatment for yourself or a significant other, bereavement (e.g., death of a family member or close friend), or a traumatic event (e.g., sexual assault, divorce). Another example is an absence due to a significant event, such as participating in a varsity championship or performing at a national or international event.

Academic consideration for an extenuating circumstance may include but is not limited to:

- an excused absence
- a deferral
- an extension
- a modified schedule for assignments, projects, labs, or placements
- an alternative assignment
- a re-weighting of term marks
- permission for an incomplete grade
- course withdrawal without penalty (this requires an appeal to the Associate Dean of Studies)

Your instructor will determine what academic consideration is appropriate for your course based on the academic requirement(s) you may miss and the essential requirements/learning outcomes of the course. All students who receive academic consideration must meet all essential academic requirements/learning outcomes and standards of the course. Academic consideration does not guarantee academic achievement in a course/program.

Situation 1: Requests for academic consideration up to 3 days:

- Each student can make one request for academic consideration for up to 3 days without supporting documentation per academic term (i.e., Fall, Winter, Summer). Any additional requests for academic consideration for up to 3 days will require supporting documentation.
- Requests for academic consideration under 3 days must be submitted as soon as you require academic consideration and no later than 1 day after the 3 day consideration period has ended. (eg. if you are requesting academic consideration for September 10-12, you must have your request submitted into this system by September 13 at the latest).
- Delegates submitting a Request for Academic Consideration for Extenuating Circumstances form and supporting documentation on behalf of a student should contact the Faculty Office at asc.consideration@queensu.ca or 613-533-6000, ext. 75413 to arrange to complete the proper forms.

Situation 2: Requests for academic consideration between 4 days and 3 months:

- Requests for academic consideration between 4 days and 3 months should be made as soon as you require academic consideration.
- All requests for academic consideration between 4 days and 3 months require supporting documentation, which should be submitted within 5 business days of submitting the request or it will be withdrawn.
- All requests for academic consideration for extenuating circumstances between 4 days and 3 months must be submitted before the course has closed/ended.
- Delegates submitting a Request for Academic Consideration for Extenuating Circumstances form and supporting documentation on behalf of a student should contact the Faculty Office to arrange to complete the proper forms.
- If you have questions, please contact the Academic Consideration Team in the Faculty Office at: asc.consideration@queensu.ca or 613-533-6000, ext. 75413.

Situation 3: Requests for academic consideration during final exam periods:

- **All requests** (up to 3 days and between 4 days and 3 months) for academic consideration made during exam periods require supporting documentation.

Situation 4: Request for Excused Absence for Significant Event:

Students who are making a request for academic consideration related to a significant event must follow these steps outlined below. If you are participating in an event at the provincial, national, or international level that is either a Queen's Varsity Athletics event or an event to which you were

invited as a distinguished guest, you can complete this form. Please submit requests a minimum of 2 weeks before the sanctioned events or as soon as the event is scheduled.

1. Gather the following information:

- A personal statement about why participation in the event is significant to you/Queen's
- Specific details about what is being missed (i.e., exactly what courses, what tests, what assignments, etc.)
- A copy of the invitation to participate/details about the competitions that determine who is invited
- Any other relevant details about the event (i.e., tournament information, schedules, team details, who is participating)

2. A minimum of two weeks before the sanctioned event, or as soon as the event is scheduled, complete and submit a Request for Excused Absence for Significant Event Form to either:

- Queen's Athletics and Recreation senior management team/Athletics Services Coordinator – Retention (athletics and Recreation Centre, 284 Earl Street), for varsity athletic events OR
- the Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Affairs (Gordon Hall, Room 300, 74 Union Street) for all other significant events
- BISC Students should submit their requests to the Student Services office at the Bader International Student Centre (BISC).

3. Upload your signed form to the Arts & Science Academic Consideration Portal. If you encounter technical difficulties please reach out to asc.consideration@queensu.ca

As soon as possible, follow-up with your instructor(s) either by email or in-person to discuss how you will be making up for the missed academic requirements. This may require you to complete academic requirements prior to being absent for the event.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

All undergraduate students face new learning and writing challenges as they progress through university: essays and reports become more complex; effectively incorporating research into writing becomes more important; the types of assignments become more diverse; managing your time and developing the skills you need to read and think critically gets more challenging. I encourage students to contact **Student Academic Success Services (SASS)**. SASS offers many different ways to receive support:

- Free online or in-person appointments to get personalized support on writing and academic skills from expert staff and trained peers.
- Workshops and drop-in programs. SASS' Events Calendar lists events coming soon.
- Online resources that provide strategies for academic skills and writing development at university.
- If English is not your first language, SASS has specific resources for English as Additional Language students, including weekly programs and EAL academic skills appointments. You can meet on an

ongoing basis with an EAL consultant to work on your academic writing, speaking, listening, and reading skills.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Queen's students, faculty, administrators and staff all have responsibilities for upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage. These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of 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).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments and their behaviour conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1), on the Arts and Science website, and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic 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 which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

TURNITIN

This course makes use of Turnitin, a third-party application that helps maintain standards of excellence in academic integrity. Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments through onQ to Turnitin. In doing so, students' work will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

Turnitin is a suite of tools that provide instructors with information about the authenticity of submitted work and facilitates the process of grading. Turnitin compares submitted files against its extensive database of content, and produces a similarity report and a similarity score for each assignment. A similarity score is the percentage of a document that is similar to content held within the database. Turnitin does not determine if an instance of plagiarism has occurred. Instead, it gives instructors the information they need to determine the authenticity of work as a part of a larger process.

Please read Turnitin's Privacy Pledge, Privacy Policy, and Terms of Service, which governs users' relationship with Turnitin. Also, please note that Turnitin uses cookies and other tracking technologies; however, in its service contract with Queen's Turnitin has agreed that neither Turnitin nor its third-party partners will use data collected through cookies or other tracking technologies for marketing or advertising purposes. For further information about how you can exercise control over cookies, see Turnitin's Privacy Policy.

Turnitin may provide other services that are not connected to the purpose for which Queen's University has engaged Turnitin. Your independent use of Turnitin's other services is subject solely to Turnitin's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, and Queen's University has no liability for any independent interaction you choose to have with Turnitin.

As a student, you have the right to opt out of Turnitin. You must notify the instructor by the end of Week 3 of the term, and make arrangements for additional work or alternative strategies to ensure the integrity of the work. In such instances, the instructor is still expected to ensure the integrity of your work.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

Synchronous (live) classes will be delivered in this course through Zoom and/or Teams, video conferencing platforms supported by the University. Steps have been taken by the University to configure these platforms in a secure manner. Classes will be recorded with video and audio (and, in some cases, transcription) and will be made available to students in the course for the duration of the term. The recordings may capture your name, image or voice through the video and audio recordings. By attending these live classes, you are consenting to the collection of this information for the purposes of administering the class and associated coursework. If you are concerned about the collection of your name and other personal information in the class, please contact the course instructor to identify possible alternatives.

To learn more about how your personal information is collected, used and disclosed by Queen's University, please see the Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

Please note that mobile devices are not recommended for the course as they cause several known issues in onQ.

Computer Specifications

- Windows 8.1 or newer
- OS X 10.13 (High Sierra) or newer
- Dual Core 2 GHz processor
- 4 GB RAM
- Soundcard
- USB headset
- Webcam

Supported Browsers

- Chrome (preferred - latest version)
- Firefox (latest version)
- ***Safari is not recommended as it causes several known issues in onQ***
- ***Edge is not recommended as it causes several known issues in onQ***

Internet Connection

- Wired high speed access: Cable or better
- ***Wifi is not recommended***

Java

- Latest version

Media Player

- HTML5 compatible

Adobe Reader

- Latest Version

STUDENTS STUDYING OR TRAVELLING ABROAD

If you plan to travel, we strongly recommend that you confirm Internet availability in your host country prior to departure. In the past, students in other countries have been blocked from accessing certain websites relevant to their courses, as well as onQ. It is the responsibility of all students to book travel around course work, as we cannot change the format or timing on assessments or assignments as a result of travel plans.

PARTICIPANT POOL INFORMATION

Students in this course have the option of volunteering in psychological research conducted by faculty and advanced students in the Psychology Department. For every half hour of research completed, you can increase your final mark in this course by 0.5% up to a maximum of 2.5%. If you are enrolled in more than one eligible course, you will select the course toward which your research participation will be credited when you sign up for a study. You can complete studies toward each course. You cannot apply the same study credit to more than one course, and research credit cannot be used to improve a failing mark to a passing mark. The last day to participate in research for bonus credit is the last day of classes. For more details, please see the Departmental Participant Pool website.

Although participation is not a requirement, we do consider it to be an integral part of the course and encourage students to participate. Students gain valuable direct experience in methods of psychological investigation and contribute to research.

Each study has been reviewed in detail and cleared by the Department's Ethics Review Committee. Nevertheless, you may decline to participate, for any reason at all, in any study for which you sign up. You may also direct any ethical concerns to the researcher or Participant Pool Officer.

At the conclusion of each study in which you participate, you should be provided with information about the purpose of the study and other relevant details. The idea is to ensure that your participation will benefit your education, as well as add to the fund of knowledge in psychology. You are encouraged to ask questions about the research in order that you understand fully why the study is being conducted, and what your role is, as a participant.

How to sign up for studies

We use the website Sona for the participant pool. All students will be activated in the participant pool by the 3rd week of the term. If you have previously used the participant pool, you will use the same userid and password that you used previously. If you are new to the participant pool, you will receive an email with your login information by the 3rd week of class.

During the first week of the semester, you will be emailed a link to an online prescreening questionnaire that will be due by the end of the Add/Drop period (second Friday of the term). If you complete the larger prescreening questionnaire online, you may become eligible for additional studies, and those researchers will contact you directly to find a time to participate.

Signing up for studies is done through the Sona site directly: [CLICK HERE](#)

What if I don't want to participate?

Participation in research is entirely voluntary. If you want to earn credit but don't want to participate in a particular study, you can complete an alternative assignment instead. For the alternative assignment, researchers either will offer a walk-through of their experiment, or they will have you to read an article or blog post, listen to a short podcast, or watch a short video and then answer questions about it. To complete an alternative assignment, you must contact the principal investigator of a particular study (see the study's contact information on SONA for their email) before the last week of classes for the semester to complete the alternative assignment option. Although the length of studies will vary, all alternative assignments will last approximately 30 minutes, so you will earn 0.5% for each alternative assignment that you complete.

Off-Campus Students

Off-campus students: please note that you can participate in online studies and researchers who offer these studies also offer online alternative assignments.

What if I can't make a research appointment?

Please note: we understand that life happens and you may be unable to attend the session you sign up for as a result of extenuating circumstances. If you are unable to attend your scheduled session due to an extenuating circumstance, please contact the researcher directly to reschedule the session and/or receive an "excused no-show" notation. An "excused no-show" is guaranteed if you contact researchers 3 or more hours in advance of your appointment.

Research is an important activity that directly impacts science and society, and that also impacts a larger system (e.g., time in lab space is very limited and can be costly—for example, booking a 1 hour session in the fMRI facility costs \$400). We thank you in advance for ensuring that you attend your scheduled sessions, and that you follow up with the researcher as soon as possible if you miss a session due to extenuating circumstances. However, if you reach 2 unexcused no-shows in a given semester, you will not be able to sign up for additional studies/alternative assignments that semester. You will be automatically granted the ability to sign up for studies to earn research credit the following academic semester.

Who should I contact for help?

*Note: Your course instructor is not involved in the administration of studies and alternative assignments. If you have questions about studies, please contact the researchers listed on SONA. Questions about the pool (e.g., credits, prescreening) should be directed to the participant pool coordinator at participant.pool@queensu.ca.