

PSYC 370 Course Syllabus

Term Dates

Winter Term: September 12 – December 2, 2016

Examination Period: December 7 – 21, 2016

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.

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.

Course Introduction

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.

Assessment

Component	% of Final Mark
-----------	-----------------

Essay Assignment	10%
Debate Assignment	25%
Open-Book Midterm	15%
Proctored Final Exam	50%
	100%

Essay Assignment

The first assignment is an essay submission associated with Unit 2: Brain Damage and Neuroplasticity. Details on this assignment can be found under the [Essay Assignment](#) Icon on the Course Homepage.

Debate Assignment

As part of the evaluation for Psychology 370 you are required to participate in a Debate Assignment. While the question is associated with a particular unit, you are encouraged to work on it well before the due date.

Debate (Part 1: Discussion Forum): After the course drop date, all students will be randomly divided into groups of 4. Two of these students will be assigned to the 'FOR' argument while the other two will be assigned the 'AGAINST' argument. Please note that the Discussion Forum will not be open until all students have been placed in groups. Students will be required first to post an original contribution to the forum (worth 5%). These posts should include background on the topic and arguments either for or against the question. Students will then read the other group members' posts and participate in a discussion/debate through a discussion forum. The discussion will be monitored and is worth 5%.

Debate (Part 2: Individual Report): After the discussion forum has closed, each student will prepare a 2-3 page (single-spaced) individual report based on the discussion forum. The report will be worth 15%.

Midterm

There will be an **open-book written midterm exam** which will consist of short-answer questions on Units 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. All required material, including unit course notes, journal articles, online materials and textbook readings can be tested for the midterm. The questions will be posted on OnQ on a specific date and answers will be submitted in a Word document

4 days later. Please note that access to the Midterm Submission Icon on the Course Homepage will be restricted until the midterm is open. The midterm will be worth 15%. More details can be found under the [Midterm Instructions](#) Icon.

Extension Policy

For serious extenuating circumstances (illness, death in the family etc.), extensions on the assignments and the midterm can be granted, if documentation is provided. Please note that neither vacations, travel nor work responsibilities will be considered extenuating circumstances and extensions will NOT be granted in those cases.

Final Exam

The [3-hour final exam](#) will be written during the Exam Period. It will consist of 100 Multiple Choice Questions, covering the entire course and is worth 50% of the final grade. All required material, including unit course notes, journal articles, online materials and textbook readings can be tested for the final exam. **Please Note: You must PASS the final exam in order to pass the course.** More details can be found under the Final Exams Icon on the Course Homepage.

Exam absence

Students who cannot write an exam during the December or April 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/May, and September.

1. Obtain permission from their instructor to write a deferred exam. This requires notifying your instructor in advance or, under extraordinary circumstances, within 72 hours after, the exam, with appropriate documentation [i]. Please use the [Request for Exam Deferral form](#) (PDF, 423 KB) 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).

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.

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 a course 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.

Online Course exam requirement

All online courses shall have a proctored final examination and a student cannot pass an online course without passing the final examination.

PLEASE NOTE: If you require special accommodations for the assignments/midterm/final exam, please contact the instructor within the first 2 weeks of the course.

Late Assignment/Midterm Policy

Essay Assignment: A late penalty of 5% per day (or 0.5 mark out of 10) will be deducted for late assignments. As marks and answer keys will be posted online approximately 7-10 days after the due date, no assignments will be accepted after 7 days.

Midterm: A late penalty of 5% per day (or 2.5 marks out of 50) will be deducted for late midterm submissions. As marks and answer keys will be posted online approximately 7-10 days after the due date, no midterms will be accepted after 7 days.

Debate Assignment Part 1: To ensure that there is sufficient time for all students to engage in the discussion forum, late original posts will not be accepted 24 hours after the due date. If posted within 24 hours, 1 mark (out of the possible 5) will be deducted. No late discussion forum posts will be marked.

Debate Assignment Part 2: Late individual reports will be penalized 2 marks per day (out of a possible 15 marks). Again, as marks and answer keys will be posted online approximately 7-10 days after the due date, no assignments will be accepted after 7 days.

Required Materials

Textbook

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

- - *Biopsychology*, 9th Edition, by John P.J. Pinel, with accompanying [MyPsychLab](#) access code (online study resource). Please note that

MyPsychLab access is a **REQUIRED** component of the course. There can be questions on the midterm and final exam from the simulations and/or videos assigned from the website.

If you wish to buy access to MyPsychLab separately:

- - MyPsychLab standalone access code card (includes ebook) ISBN: 020598827X - Available from [Queen's Campus Bookstore](#)
 - MyPsychLab standalone access code card (without ebook) - Purchase online through <https://pearsonmylabandmastering.com> when registering

Please see the [MyPsychLab Student Registration Instructions](#) for more information on MyPsychLab access. The Course ID is **valsangkar-smyth12213**. If you have problems accessing MyPsychLab or trouble viewing the videos/simulations on the site, **please contact the website administrators directly through the help button, rather than emailing myself or the TAs.**

The textbook website has online videos, simulations and review quizzes which can be found on the Course Homepage under 'Study Plans and Course Content' and 'The Brain' and are divided by each chapter in the textbook. Those that are required for the course are detailed on the [Timeline](#).

Key Dates

Suggested Time Commitment

To complete the readings, assignments, and course activities, students can expect to spend on average, about **12 - 18** hours per week on the course.

Students Traveling Overseas

For students who will be out of Canada for the duration of the term, please note that we have had instances in the past where certain Web sites that are required to complete the online courses, including onQ, have been blocked intermittently in some countries (e.g. China). If the course you enroll in requires the completion of online quizzes or exams, this may pose an impediment to you successfully completing the course. We do not make accommodations based on the lack of reliable Internet access. It is your responsibility to make sure that you will have adequate high speed Internet coverage for the entirety of the term.

Grading Method

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

Exam Information

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: CDSExams@queensu.ca or call 613-533-3322. The deadline for changing your exam centre can be found at http://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/current-students/dates-and-deadlines. 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/current-students/exams

Location and Timing of Final Examinations

As noted in Academic Regulation 8.2.1, "the final examination in any class offered in a term or session (including Summer Term) must be written on the campus on which it was taken, at the end of the appropriate term or session at the time scheduled by the Examinations Office." The exam period is listed in the key dates prior to the start of the academic year in the Faculty of Arts and Science Academic Calendar and on the Office of the University Registrar's webpage. A detailed exam schedule for the Fall Term is posted before the Thanksgiving holiday; for the

Winter Term it is posted the Friday before Reading Week, and for the Summer Term the window of dates is noted on the Arts and Science Online syllabus prior to the start of the course. 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.

Copyright

The material on this website is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in PSYC 370. The material on this website may be downloaded for a registered student's personal use, but shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in PSYC 370. 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.

External Activities

This course makes use of Pearson for some activities. Be aware that by logging into the site, you will be leaving onQ, and accessing Pearson's website and MyPsych Lab. Your independent use of that site, *beyond what is required for the course (for example, purchasing the company's products)*, is subject to Pearson'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>

Accessibility/Accommodation

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 Queen's Student Accessibility Services (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/>

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is constituted by the six core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage (see www.academicintegrity.org).

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.

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 in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-calendar>), and from the instructor of this course. For current policy updates visit: <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-integrity>

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.

Resources Available to You

The Library is here to help you make the most of your time at Queen's. It offers many great services to enhance your learning while at Queen's.

- [The Library](#)
- [Queen's Learning Commons](#)
- [The Exam Bank](#)

Student Academic Success Services

- [The Writing Centre](#)
- [Learning Strategies](#)

Student Wellness Services supports the personal, academic and social development of students at Queen's University by providing a range of programmes and services appropriate to their needs, and by participating in associated activities.

- [Student Wellness Services](#)
- [Counselling Services](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)
- [Health Services](#)

Career Services offers students, faculty, employers and alumni various services including workshops.

- [Career Services](#)

IT Support

- [IT Support](#)

Outlook 365 Email

- [Outlook Web Interface](#)

onQ Announcements and News

The instructor will use the Course Announcements located on the Course Home page to post news to the class. Please remember to active news notifications in your settings, otherwise you might miss important announcements.

onQ Question and Answer Forum

You are encouraged to use these forums to post questions of general interest to the class. The instructor, TA (if any), and other students in the class can reply to the posts in this forum.

Timeline and Calendar

The link to the Course Timeline is located in the navigation bar below to course banner and shows the dates for all of the assessments used in this course as well as provides links to other important course information. Please check the Timeline each time you enter the course.

The calendar located on the Course Home page shows important course dates, such as assignment due dates and quiz due dates. Please check the calendar frequently.

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

All times used in the course are Kingston local times (UTC -05:00).

Computer Requirements

Microsoft Windows Client Vista/Windows 7/Windows 8 Intel Core 2 Duo processor 2GB RAM Soundcard with speakers and microphone or preferably a headset Webcam	Supported Browsers Firefox (latest version) Safari (latest version on 64-bit Intel processors only)
	Java Latest version
	Internet Connection

Mac Client OS X 10.8 or higher Intel i5 processor 2 GB RAM Internal, USB or external iSight microphone or preferably a headset Webcam	Wired high speed access: ADSL, Cable or better
	Media Player Flash (latest version)
	Adobe Reader Latest Version

Queen's Email

The university communicates with students by Queen's email. Please check your email regularly to ensure you do not miss out on important information.

Email and onQ Help - Monday To Friday

Contact CDS: cds@queensu.ca or phone 613-533-3322

OR

Submit your problem to ITS: <https://www.queensu.ca/its/forms/itsc/helpform/> or phone 613-533-6666.

What Does Taking this Course Look Like?

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

- - Textbook readings - a chapter from Pinel's 9th edition Biopsychology
 - Unit course notes-link found on the Course Homepage or Course Timeline
 - Online videos, demonstrations or exercises from the textbook website www.mypsychlab.com and other websites including youtube.com -links on the Course Timeline
 - 1-2 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.

Unit Course Notes

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 just introduce the topic, detail the objectives and attempt to place the topic in the larger research area. Each **Course Notes** contains:

- - An **Introduction to the Unit** including what you will learn about
 - The **Unit Objectives** showing expectations of what you should know after completing the Unit
 - A **Unit Summary** so you can review what you learned
 - **Coming Next** will help you prepare for the next Unit

A Few Comments on How to Approach the Material

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.

Course Questions Forum

The link to the Course Questions Forum is located on the Course Homepage and can be used to post general questions about the course or subject matter, that all students, TAs and myself will be able to read and respond to. Please do not use this forum for personal questions about marks/marked assignments or for requesting extensions or for venting frustrations about the course. Those types of questions/comments should be emailed directly either to myself or the TAs.

Course News Forum

The link to the Course News Forum is located on the Course Homepage and is the site of any new general course information (i.e. when marks are posted, etc.) as well as any interesting links to new research that I find during the course of the term.

ONE LAST NOTE

Please read through this syllabus carefully and refer back to it throughout the course. I get a number of questions through email or posted onto the Course Questions Forum that are answered here!