

PSYC 370 Winter2016

Term Dates and Exam

Winter Term: Jan 4 – Apr 1, 2016

Examination Period: Apr 7 – 23, 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.

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.

Learning Outcomes

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- 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

Jan 4	Winter Term classes begin
Jan 10	Winter tuition due
Jan 15	Last day to add courses Last day to drop courses without financial penalty
Feb 26	Last day to change exam centre location

	Last day to drop courses without academic penalty Last day to submit accommodations to CDS
Apr 1	Winter Term classes end
Apr 7 – 23	Examinations

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 Travelling 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 Moodle, 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.

Required Materials

Textbook

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

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- *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:

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- 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-smyth54527**. 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**.

Evaluation

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 Moodle 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): 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. 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%.

Please see the [Debate Assignment](#) Icon (on Moodle Course Homepage) for more details.

Extension Policy

For serious extenuating circumstances (illness, death in the family etc.), extensions on the Assignments 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.

Midterm

There will be a **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 Moodle 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.

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 Moodle Course Homepage.

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.

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

Exams

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: 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

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/>

What Does Taking this Course Look Like?

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

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- Textbook readings - a chapter from Pinel's 9th edition Biopsychology
- Unit course notes-link found on the Moodle 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 Moodle 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:

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- 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 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.

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- **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 Icon to the Course Questions Forum is located on the Moodle 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. Those types of questions should be emailed directly either to myself or the TAs.

Course News Forum

The Icon to the Course News Forum is located on the Moodle 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 the start here document 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!