PSYC*2410, Course Outline: Fall 2017

General Information

Course Title: Behavioural Neuroscience I

Course Description: Can the human brain ever fully understand itself? Psychology and Neuroscience involve the scientific study of behaviour and the nervous system, respectively. In this course, we will consider both of these pursuits from the integrative perspective of biopsychology, or behavioural neuroscience. The ultimate effect of nervous system function is to produce and control behaviour. This course deals with the link between psychological processes and the brain. As such, we will consider evolutionary, genetic, anatomical, pharmacological, synaptic, neurochemical, and developmental bases of aspects of human and animal behaviour. Throughout, we will emphasize the behavioural relevance of the biological and physiological mechanisms under discussion.

Format: Lectures.

Credit Weight: 0.5

Academic Department (or campus): Psychology

Semester Offering: F17

Class Schedule and Location: Tuesdays, 7:00PM-9:50PM; ALEX 200

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Boyer Winters
Instructor Email: bwinters@uoguelph.ca
Office location and office hours: MacKinnon Extension, Room 3005; ext. 52163; Meeting by arrangement; e-mail at all times

GTA Information

GTA Name: TBA
GTA Email: TBA
GTA office location and office hours: Blackwood Hall 211; TBA
Around the start of the semester, weekly TA tutorial sessions will be arranged for interested students to ‘drop in’ and catch up on that week’s lecture material. Location and times TBA.
Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

1. Identify gross anatomical structures of the mammalian brain and describe their basic functions.
2. Recognize various genetic and pharmacological factors that influence brain function and behaviour.
3. Critically evaluate various methods used to study the intersection between brain and behaviour.
4. Apply the above concepts to understanding the neural bases and possible therapies for human brain disorders.
5. Recognize the major neurobiological features of the mammalian sensory and motor systems.

Lecture Content:

Schedule of topics and dates.

The following is an outline of how the course will proceed. However, if necessary, I reserve the right to progress more slowly than indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Chpt 1</td>
<td>Brief Orientation, questions and answers, introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chpt 3</td>
<td>Anatomy and Functions of the Central Nervous System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Chpt 3</td>
<td>Anatomy and Functions of the Central Nervous System</td>
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<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Chpt 2</td>
<td>Evolution</td>
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<td>Chpt 2</td>
<td>Genetics of Behaviour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>Chpt 2</td>
<td>Genetics of Behaviour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Chpt 4</td>
<td>Excitable Cell Membranes</td>
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<td>*****</td>
<td>First Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Chpt 4</td>
<td>Neuronal Action Potentials</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>READING</td>
<td>TOPIC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Chpt 4</td>
<td>Synapses and Synaptic Transmission</td>
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<td>Chpt 4, plus Pharmacological and Genetic Manipulation of Behaviour</td>
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<td>Neurotransmitters supplement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Chpt 4, plus Pharmacological and Genetic Manipulation of Behaviour</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Neurotransmitters supplement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Chpt 6/7</td>
<td>Visual System</td>
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<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Chpt 7</td>
<td>Hearing, Touch</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>***** Second Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>Chpt 7</td>
<td>Smell, Taste</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chpt 11 Learning, Memory, and Amnesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>Chpt 11</td>
<td>Learning, Memory, and Amnesia</td>
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**Labs: N/A**
**Seminars: N/A**
**Course Assignments and Tests:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment or Test</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Contribution to Final Mark (%)</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>Oct 17, 2017, in class</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm #2 (non-cumulative)</td>
<td>Nov 21, 2017, in class</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (cumulative)</td>
<td>Dec 12, 2017, 7:00-9:00 pm</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional Written Assignment</td>
<td>Dec 1, 2017, 11pm; use Dropbox in CourseLink</td>
<td>Potential to replace weight of MT1 or MT2</td>
<td>2-4</td>
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**Additional Notes:**

Midterms and final exam will be multiple choice or a mix of multiple choice and short answer.

Optional Written Assignment: “Never mind the neurobollocks”. Students have the option to complete a written critical evaluation of a pop cultural representation of a neuroscience-related issue (e.g., the depiction of long-term memory loss in the movie “Memento”; tinnitus in “Baby Driver”). THIS PAPER IS NOT MANDATORY. If a student chooses to complete this assignment s/he will have the option to replace the lower of the two midterm grades. ***Please note that all students must still write both midterms; this optional assignment merely provides the opportunity to replace the lowest of your two midterm grades.***

THE FINAL EXAM GRADE CANNOT BE REPLACED.

This paper should be approximately 4-5 pages, double-spaced, plus a title page with your name and student ID. Your paper should include an introduction of the relevant neuroscience-related topic, a summary of the pop cultural representation being examined, and a critical comparison between the pop cultural representation and the scientific facts (as determined from your own research into the topic), as well as your conclusions about the accuracy of the pop culture representation. Keep in mind that “critical evaluation” does not necessarily mean negative; a well-reasoned and researched positive or balanced assessment will be just as likely to produce a good grade. A session will be held in class closer to the end of the semester to address student questions regarding this assignment, but you are welcome to approach me sooner with any thoughts you might have.

**Final examination date and time:** Tuesday, Dec 12, 2017; 7:00-9:00PM; location TBA

**Final exam weighting:** 50%
**Course Resources**

**Required Texts:**


**Recommended Texts:**

Lab Manual: N/A

**Other Resources:**

Web site: lecture notes will be available online before each class. Just logon to CourseLink using your U of G email username and password.

Instructor – Student Communication: You can email me at any time. I will set up an e-mail class list that I will use to communicate important information to you (e.g., exam marks). I will use your U of G email address as default.

Field Trips: N/A

Additional Costs: N/A

**Course Policies**

**Grading Policies**

If you miss an exam, please inform me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, so that a make-up can be arranged.

**Course Policy on Group Work:**

N/A

**Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:**

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.
University Policies

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration: Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar: Academic Misconduct Policy

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or see the website: Student Accessibility Services Website
Course Evaluation Information

Please refer to the Course and Instructor Evaluation Website.

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is November 3rd, 2017. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar: Current Undergraduate Calendar.