

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 2240 3.0 M
BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF BEHAVIOUR
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 11:30-14:30 / VH B
SUMMER 2024

This course will be delivered in-person during the scheduled course hours. Please note, classes may be moved online if required. It is students' responsibility to ensure that they can participate in both in-person and in the online course. Having fast and reliable internet connection is a prerequisite.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Agnieszka Kopinska

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: kopinska@yorku.ca

T.A.	Michael Truong
Email	mtruong@yorku.ca
Office Hours	TBA

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00

Course Credit Exclusions

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

Course website: <https://eclass.yorku.ca>

Course Description

An introduction to biological basis of behaviour. The physiological, genetic, developmental and evolutionary perspectives will be utilized to discuss a broad variety of topics, including perception, sleeping and dreaming, memory, motor and cognitive processing, as well as emotions and consciousness. This will be accomplished by looking at normal and impaired functioning and illustrated by classic findings and current research.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge of biological determinants of behaviour.
2. Describe and evaluate current theory and research in biological psychology.
3. Understand and interpret principles of biological psychology in everyday life.
4. Discuss human behaviour from biological psychology perspective.

Required Text

James W. Kalat, Biological Psychology, 13th Edition, Cengage

Please wait with the purchase until the first class.

(Please don't ask me whether the previous editions can be used; make your own decision based on your comparison of both editions.)

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Exam1	Jul 16	24%
Exam2	Jul 30	24%
Exam3	Aug 16-23	24%
Weekly Assignments	Term	14%
iClicker (optional)	Term	14%
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

As indicated on the schedule, there will be three exams based on assigned readings, lectures and videos/talks counting for 72%, weekly forum assignments worth 14%, 14% for in-class testing (iClicker/optional). Exams and iClicker questions will be based on the material covered in the textbook, in class, and videos shown in class and assigned for home viewing. Please note that iClicker grades will only be used to increase your final course grade. The percentage that you do not earn with iClicker will be accounted for by the three exams. For example, if your iClicker grade is 0, your exams will be worth 28.67% each. If you obtain 11% out of 14% on iClicker, the remaining 3% will be accounted by the exams, which will be worth 25% each.

Class Format and Attendance Policy

The classes will be on-campus in-person during the scheduled class time. iClicker is a system that allows you to participate in class using your smartphone. More information will be provided during the first class and on eClass. Please note that the grade will be computed by evenly weighting all the iClicker sessions (do not pay attention to grade showed on the application). Please note that the only way to earn the iClicker grades is by being present in class. The grade that is missed due to absence or incorrect answers will be accounted for by the exams.

Attendance Policy: The student is responsible for knowing the material presented in class.

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [Grading Scheme](#)

Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment:

For any missed quiz or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician's Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

Late assignments will be deducted 5% per working day late.

HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form. Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed quiz or late assignment.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to [Undergraduate Fall/Winter 2023-2024 Important Dates](#)

	SU	S1	S2
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 28	May 13	Jul 8
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jun 11	May 21	Jul 15
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jul 23	Jun 3	Jul 29
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Jul 24 – Aug 13	Jun 4 – Jun 17	Jul 30 – Aug 13

Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enroll without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission. You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

Turnitin software may be used to detect plagiarism.

Electronic Device Policy

Electronic devices are permitted during class time for course-related purposes only. Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

Test Banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with ***Student Accessibility Services (SAS)*** to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.**

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

Course Materials Copyright Information

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC2060 course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

Course Schedule

	DATE	TOPIC	CHAPTER
Jul	T2	Introduction and Nerve Cells	1
	R4	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses and Synapses	1 & 2
	T9	Anatomy and Research Methods	3
	R11	Genetics, Evolution, Development and Plasticity	4
	T16	Exam 1 (24%)	1-4
		& Vision	5
	R18	Senses	6
	T23	Wakefulness and Sleep	8
	R25	Internal Regulation and Reproductive Behaviours	9 &10
	T30	Exam 2 (24%)	5-10 (no 7)
		& Emotional Behaviours	11
Aug	R1	Learning and Memory	12
	T6	Cognitive Functions	13
	R8	Psychological Disorders	14
	16-23	Exam 3 (24%)	11-14
	R29	Make-up session for exam 1-3	
		Trips are not a valid excuse for missing the exams	