

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 2240 3.0 A: BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF BEHAVIOUR
Friday/2:30 pm to 5:30 pm/Vari Hall - C
Fall Term/2017

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Alice Kim, Ph.D.
Office: 1029 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh (formerly TEL)
Office Phone: 416.736.2100 ext. 88770
Office Hours: By appointment only
Email: a_kim@yorku.ca

T.A.	Audrey Wong-Kee-You	Lindsey Fraser
Email	audwky@yorku.ca	lfraser4@yorku.ca
Office	5030B Victor Phillip Dahdaleh	1018 Sherman Health Sciences
Office Hours	By appointment only	By appointment only

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

Course Credit Exclusions

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

Course website: [Moodle](#)

Course Description

In this course, we will survey the physiological, developmental, and evolutionary mechanisms of behaviour. This will include the brain and how it works at the level of neurons and synapses. We will also cover the biological basis of vision and other sensory system, sleep, reproductive and emotional behaviours, as well as higher cognitive processes and neurological disorders.

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. Define biological causes of human behaviour from different perspectives.

Required Text

- Kalat, J. W. (2015). Biological Psychology (12th ed.). Belmont, CA; Wadsworth.

Course Assessments:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Quiz 1	Sep 22	The best 3 out of 5 quizzes will count for 45%
Quiz 2	Oct 6	
Quiz 3	Oct 20	
Quiz 4	Nov 10	
Quiz 5	Nov 24	
Assignment	Dec 1	10%
Class Participation	Every class	10%
Final Exam	TBD – during exam period	35%
Total		100%

Description of Course Assessments

1) Quizzes

There will be five quizzes held during the scheduled class sessions. Students will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz. The quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions and there will be ample time for students to complete each quiz within the allotted 30 minutes. Each quiz will test students on material covered in class and readings from the previous two weeks.

Students' best three quiz scores will be counted towards their final grade and the remaining lowest two quiz scores will be dropped (e.g., if a student receives the following quiz scores on the five quizzes - 60%, 80%, 70%, 0%, 55%, their final quiz grade will be 70%).

There will not be any opportunity to write a makeup quiz. If you miss a quiz your grade for that quiz will be 0%.

2) Assignment

The course assignment will require students to work on their own to write a 1000 word report that will be marked by the Course Instructor. The details of the assignment will be announced in class on October 6th and will be due by December 1st. The purpose of the assignment is to have students evaluate, synthesize and apply principles of biological psychology in everyday life. The assignment will be worth 10% of students' final grades.

3) Class Participation

Participation will be evaluated by the proportion of class activity and discussion questions that students answer, regardless of the accuracy of their responses. To receive full marks, students must write down their answers to questions presented during the lectures on a full 8 x 11" piece of paper with their **names, student ID number and the date on the top right of the page**. To get full participation marks, students have to write down a response to each question – please note, students are being assessed on their effort and thought process, not the accuracy of their responses. The purpose of class participation in this

course is to have students thoughtfully engage in the course material. Students must turn in their paper within five minutes of the end of lecture to the Course Instructor. There is no way to make up for missed participation marks, including medical reasons or late registration.

4) Final Exam

The final exam will cover all the course material and will be held during your exam period. The final exam will count for 35% of students' the grade. The best way to prepare for the final exam is to study the course material consistently throughout the semester.

I would also suggest looking into the Learning Skills Services (<http://lss.info.yorku.ca/>) at the university for additional academic support.

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 91 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 for 2017-18](#))

Late Work/Missed Exams

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf> may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

For any missed tests or late assignments, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[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 test/assignment.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2017-18 - Important Dates](#)

	FALL (F)	YEAR (Y)	WINTER (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 20	Sept. 20	Jan. 17
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 4	Oct. 18	Jan. 31
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 10	Feb. 9	March 9
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 11 - Dec. 4	Feb. 10 - Apr. 6	March 10 - Apr. 6

****Note:** 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

Assignments will be checked for plagiarism. Details will be announced with the assignment.

Electronic Device Policy

We will be using electronic devices (e.g., smart phones, tablets, laptops) in the course in the following two ways outlined below. Students who do not wish to use electronic devices for the following class activities will not be penalized in any way.

1) Testing your knowledge – class activity via Kahoot:

At the start of each class Kahoot, a free online platform, will be used to quiz students on their knowledge of the course material. Students' will be given an opportunity to communicate their responses to questions posed by the Course Instructor using electronic devices that connect to wifi. For each question, the correct answer will be provided as well as a breakdown of how the class as a whole responded (e.g., what percentage of the class responded correctly). Students' performance on these quizzes will not contribute to their final grade in the course. Instead, this is meant to be a helpful and fun exercise to help students assess what they know and what topics they need to review.

Students are encouraged to work together in pairs. If students do not wish to use electronic devices to participate in these Kahoot quizzes, they can still answer each of the questions but will not be able to contribute their answer to count as part of the class breakdown (e.g. the percentage of students in the class who answered the question correctly).

2) Disseminating course information – asking questions via twitter:

There will be approximately 150 students enrolled in this course. Many students are bound to have the same question at any given moment. Given the length of the lectures (three hours), we will take at least one 10 minute break during each class. During this time, if students have any questions that pertain to the course (e.g., any question about the quizzes, assignment or exam, but particularly material that was just covered in the lecture), please post it on twitter using the course hashtag: **#psyc2440**. After the break, the course instructor will take up any questions that are noted with the #psyc2440 hashtag with the class. Any questions that are specific to a student can be taken up directly with the Course Instructor.

If students do not wish to use electronic devices, they can also write their questions on a piece of paper and give it to the Course Instructor during the break. The Course Instructor will take up the question with the class in the same manner as any question posted on twitter.

Please note that we will also use the message board on Moodle for questions about the course and course content. The use of twitter to field questions is mainly for questions that arise during the lectures about the material that was recently covered and also to minimize any redundancy in questions that students may have – this allows the Course Instructor to answer more (different) questions that students may have.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is highly recommended. Students will not receive any marks for attending class. However, to participate in class (worth 10% of the final mark), students will have to be present in class.

Students who attend class are asked to limit their conversations during the lectures as a courtesy to other students in the course. If any student finds that their peers are talking and that this is distracting and/or disruptive, they are encouraged to politely ask their peers to stop talking or to lower their voices.

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.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination

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 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 [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement.

Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

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 PSYC 2440 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	Evaluations
Sep 8	Syllabus Review, Learning Skills Overview, Introduction to Biological Basis of Behaviour	Pgs. 3-11	
15	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	1	Class discussion/activities
22	Synapses	2	Quiz, Class discussion/activities
29	Anatomy and Research Methods	3	Class discussion/activities
Oct 6	Genetics, Evolution, Development and Plasticity	4	Quiz, Class discussion/activities
13	Vision Other Sensory Systems	5 & 6	Class discussion/activities
20	Movement Wakefulness and Sleep	7 & 8	Quiz, Class discussion/activities
27	No class (Fall Reading Days: Oct27-30)	NA	NA
Nov 3	Internal Regulation Reproductive Behaviours	9 & 10	Class discussion/activities
10	Emotional Behaviours	11	Quiz, Class discussion/activities
17	The Biology of Learning and Memory	12	Class discussion/activities
24	Cognitive Functions	13	Quiz, Class discussion/activities
Dec 1	Psychological Disorders	14	Assignment due, Class discussion/activities