

Psychology 375-03

Brain and Behaviour

Winter 2013

Instructor:	Simon Spanswick	Lecture Location:	ST 141
Phone:	403-394-3989	Lecture Days/Time:	Wed, 17:00 – 19:50
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Office:	A34		
Office Hours:	Email me to arrange a convenient time		

Course Description and Goals

The task of behavioural neuroscience is to explain behaviour in terms of the activities of the brain. This course explores a wide variety of topics that may include the neural basis of learning, memory, language, and thinking, as well as behavioural and neurodegenerative disorders that arise from nervous system malfunctioning.

Prerequisites

Psychology 205 – Principles of Psychology

Required Text

An Introduction to Brain and Behaviour (4th Edition), B. Kolb and I.Q. Whishaw (2012), Worth Publishers. The text is available from the university bookstore.

Evaluation

Quizzes (6 total):	20%
Midterm #1 (February 6 th):	25%
Midterm #2 (March 13 th):	25%
Final Exam (to be scheduled by the registrar):	30%

There will be 6 quizzes spread throughout the course; **the marks from your best 5 will be used to calculate your total quiz grade.** Each quiz will be worth 4% of your final grade (for a total of 20%). **These quizzes will test you on the prior days' lecture/reading material,** and are designed to keep you up to date with the course material. Quizzes will be done at the beginning of the lecture, and will consist of 1 to 2 short answer questions. Please ensure that you have a writing utensil with you at the beginning of each class.

There are 3 exams for this course; each of them will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Questions can be drawn from lecture material and the assigned textbook chapters. Midterm #1 will be held on **February 6th** and is worth 25% of your final grade. Midterm #2 is scheduled for **March 13th** and will also be worth 25% of your final grade. Midterm #2 **will NOT be cumulative**. The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar and is worth 30% of your final grade, it will follow the same format as the two prior midterm exams, **the final exam will NOT be cumulative.**

Quizzes and exams will be graded using a similar format. Half marks will be given if it is clear that you know the general answer, but have omitted specific details or scientific terms. Full marks will be given to those that include specifics, and employ the correct terminology and concepts. **No books, notes, computers, calculators, or cellular phones will be allowed during exam/quiz writing.**

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
T Jan 8	Winter Term lecture begins
W Jan 9	Introduction, What is the Brain and Where Does it Come From? (Chapter 1/2)
W Jan 16	Quiz #1 , Nervous System Function (Chapter 2/3)
W Jan 23	The Neuron (Chapter 3/4)
W Jan 30	Quiz #2 , How do Neurons Communicate? (Chapters 4 & 5)
W Feb 6	Midterm #1 (25% of final grade)
W Feb 13	Drugs and Hormones (Chapter 6)
W Feb 20	Reading Week. No Lecture
W Feb 27	Quiz #3 , Sensation and Perception (Chapter 9 & 10)
W Mar 6	Quiz #4 , Movement (Chapter 11)
W Mar 13	Midterm #2 (25% of final grade)
W Mar 20	Emotion and Motivation (Chapter 12)
W Mar 27	Quiz #5 , Sleep, Learning and Memory (Chapter 13 & 14)
W Apr 3	Learning and Memory (Chapter 14)
W Apr 10	Quiz #6 , How Does the Brain Think? (Chapter 15)
T Apr 16	Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from courses.
F Apr 19-30	Final Exam (30% of final grade, to be scheduled by the registrar)

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Course Credits for Research Participation [Max 2% of final grade]

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Apr 16th, 2012**

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund is January 18, 2013**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 21, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 16th, 2013**.