PSY 260F: Learning and Plasticity
Tuesdays, 18:00 pm – 21:00 pm. Location: SS 2102
Concepts, theories, and applications of classical and contemporary learning theories, including classical and operant conditioning. Current theories of the physiological and anatomical basis of learning and memory, including synaptic plasticity, the role of different brain regions. Theories will be related to a practical understanding and applications such as drug addiction, phobias and other disorders.

Instructor: Professor Martin R. Ralph, 4017 Sidney Smith Hall.
Office hours: Wednesdays 10-11 am
TAs: Julia Young, Sarah Carpentier
Office hours: TBD

Text: *Learning and Memory,* (2013, Gluck, Mercado and Myers, second edition), plus selected scientific articles.

Office hours and reviews: Please use the posted office hours for discussing course materials and other course related issues. A special review session will be scheduled prior to each test and exam.

Website: Blackboard

Email: psy260@psych.utoronto.ca
All course related correspondence should be conducted through this address. We cannot guarantee timely responses to messages sent to the instructor's nor TAs' personal email addresses. Please limit correspondence to weekdays. Messages sent over weekends may not be answered right away. Also, reserve questions on course content for office hours or review sessions.

Course etiquette: (1) Please be considerate of your fellow students and the instructor, and turn off audible cell phone rings during class, and refrain from texting. It should be obvious but, *please do not answer phones during class*. **(2)** Recording a lecture is permissible for personal use only (I realize that recordings may be shared with other students). However, all course materials are either copyrighted by the instructor or may contain materials that are copyrighted by others. Therefore, no course materials that have

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Sept 15	Introduction, course overview Discussion of basic concepts Neuroanatomy/neurotransmission (recommended)	Text pp. 1-37; Text pp. 426-457
2	Sept 22	Neuroanatomy/neurotransmission Non-associative learning	Text pp. 38-73 Text pp. 74-115
3	Sept 29	Procedural learning: Classical conditioning	Text pp. 116-165; Article 1
4	Oct 6	Instrumental Conditioning	Text pp. 166-207;
5	Oct 13	**Test 1 (30%)** discrimination, generalization, and forgetting.	208-257; Article 2
6	Oct 20	Spatial learning and memory	Article 3
7	Oct 27	Emotional learning and memory	Text pp. 384-425 Article 4
8	Nov 3	Episodic and semantic memory Role of neural stem cells	Text pp. 258-299
9	Nov 10	**Fall break**	
10	Nov 17	**Test 2 (25%)** Lecture: Time memory	Article 6,7
11	Nov 24	Motor learning, mirror cells Sleep	Text pp. 300-341; Text pp. 427-457; Article 5

12	Dec 1	Language development critical periods, and consolidation	Text pp. 458-497; Article 8
13	Dec 8	Performance, executive function and working memory, self-identity	Text pp. 344-383; Article 9

EVALUATION SCHEME

Tests and the final exam will be a mixed format, including possibly, multiple choice, true/false, and short answer.
Tests and exams will cover both lecture and reading materials.

Weighting
Test 1 – 30% (covers material up to and including week 5, Oct 13)
Test 2 – 25% (covers material from week 6 to week 9, Nov 17, inclusive)
Final exam – 45% (comprehensive exam with an emphasis (~40%) on material presented after Test 2)

Make-up tests

Missed tests may be made up only for acceptable reasons (e.g. family emergency, or illness) and only with appropriate documentation. A form for medical documentation may be found at: http://www.utoronto.ca/health/medcert.htm. Tests will be essay type, and will cover the same material, and with the same weight as the regularly scheduled test. Contact the TAs to determine whether a make-up is possible, and when it could be written. This should be done within one week of the missed test.
If a test is not made up, the mark for that test will stand as 0% unless evidence is provided through the registrar, showing that a redistribution of marks is warranted.
If both term tests are missed, please contact your registrar to determine eligibility to take the final exam.

Complaints about marking should be submitted in writing to the course email address and should detail the point of contention. All questions of this type must be made within 1 week of the distribution of the marked exams in class.