

Course syllabus: PSY290-S Physiological Psychology

Tuesdays, Thursdays 3pm-6pm, Sidney Smith Hall room#2110

Instructor: **Mark Morrissey**
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TEXTBOOK: *Biopsychology*, John P. J. Pinel 9th Edition

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will provide students with a solid background into the biological basis of behaviour. We will cover animal and human research topics including: functional neuroanatomy, neural signaling, sensory and motor control, motivational systems, hormones, and emotions.

Prerequisite: PSY100H1/COG250Y1 (formerly UNI250Y) or enrolled in the Cognitive Science program
Exclusion: HMB200H1
Distribution Requirement Status: This is a Science course
Breadth Requirement: Living Things and Their Environment (4)

GRADING:

Term Test 1	July 9th	30%
Term Test 2	July 23th	30%
Final exam	August exam period	40%

IMPORTANT COURSE DATES:

June 30 – first class
July 9 – Term test 1
July 27 – last day to drop the course without academic penalty
July 23 – Term Test 2
August 11-17 – Exam period

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will overview the biological basis of behaviour. In the first part of the course, you will learn about the anatomy and function of the nervous system, the way in which neurons communicate with one another, and the major neurotransmitter systems. These fundamental introductory concepts will provide you with the necessary background to understand the material covered in the later parts of the course in which you will learn about how the nervous system processes sensory information and controls movement, how it is involved in producing motivated behaviours and emotions, and how dysfunctions in the nervous system can produce pathological behaviours such as those associated with psychiatric conditions and neurodegenerative disorders.

TERM TEST/EXAM:

The term tests will consist of mostly multiple-choice questions and some short-answer questions. The final exam will similarly consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

Term tests will be cumulative with the focus on new material. **The final exam will also be cumulative**, with greater emphasis on material covered after the second term test.

You are responsible for assigned readings and lecture material. Grades will be posted on Blackboard. Tests will not be returned, however, you will have the opportunity to view your tests during office hour scheduled after each test. Tests can be viewed during these office hours only; no exceptions will be made.

COURSE POLICIES:

Missed tests.

If a term test/exam is missed, you will automatically be given a grade of ZERO. If you have a legitimate reason for missing a test, such as documented family emergency or a documented severe illness, special consideration MAY be given (at the discretion of the instructor) for the term tests. Simply obtaining a doctor's note does not automatically guarantee special consideration.

If a test is missed, 2 forms must be submitted within 1 week in order to be considered.

- 1) The U of T medical certificate must be properly and completely filled out by a doctor indicating the severity of the illness and how it would interfere with the writing of a test.
- 2) A 1 page letter must also be submitted indicating why the test was missed, and why a full course credit should still be awarded when only parts of the requirements were fulfilled.

IF both forms are submitted within 1 week of the missed test, and special consideration is granted, the grades received will be reweighed as follows: term test #1/#2 → 40%, final exam → 60%. If both term tests are missed, a grade of zero will be given for both tests. There will be no reweighting of the final exam. Students who miss final examinations should file a petition for a deferred exam with their College Registrar's Office.

COURSE POLICIES (CONTINUED):

Communication.

I will try to respond to e-mails within 48 hours. If you do not hear from me within that time, feel free to send a reminder e-mail. To ensure e-mail delivery, please use your @mail.utoronto.ca account and state the course code in the subject line.

Students are expected to check the Blackboard for announcements regularly (4 times per week).

Office hours.

Course instructor will hold regular office hours starting in the second week of class. Teacher's Assistant will hold office hour sessions throughout the semester, all scheduled close to test and exam time. The exact dates and times of these sessions will be announced in class and on the Blackboard.

BONUS MARK (1%)

You will have a chance to earn a 1% bonus mark if you participate in an experiment in The Cognitive Neuroscience Lab (Dr. Susanne Ferber's lab). You will be able to participate starting the first week of class and will be able to participate until the end of the exam period. The online system that the lab uses to recruit students is called PSYNUP Brain (brain.psynup.com).

Instructions for Students to Access PSYNUP Brain:

1. Go brain.psynup.com, where you can register an account with your UTOR email and select the course you are enrolled in.
2. Login using the account you created. By logging onto the system with your account you will gain access to the experimental slots that the lab will post.
3. The experimental slots on the site will have instructions about where and when to show up, and how to sign up for these slots.
4. Sign up for an experiment, and show up!

ACADEMIC RESOURCES:

Writing:

As a student here at the University of Toronto, you are expected to write well. The university provides its students with a number of resources to help them achieve this. For more information on campus writing centers and writing courses, please visit <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/>

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from course instructor or from other institutional resources (see www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html).

Submitting a paper that you did not write, recycling papers you have written for other classes, or quoting others without citing them constitutes plagiarism. Please refer to following resources for more details: <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>

Accessibility:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach the course instructor and/or Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060; accessibility.utoronto.ca

Please note that this outline is subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need additional time to cover a topic). Any changes to the syllabus will be announced ahead of time. However, the assignment and test dates are fixed.

Class	Date	Topic	Text
1	June 30	-Introduction, Evolution, and Genes -Anatomy of the nervous system	Ch1-2 Ch3
2	July 2	-Neurophysiology	Ch4
3	July 7	-Neurotransmitters -Drugs	Ch4 Ch15
4	July 9	Term Test #1 (Lectures 1-3)	
5	July 14	-Research Methods	Ch5
6	July 16	-Sensory Processing I (somatic, auditory, vestibular, chemical senses)	Ch7
7	July 21	-Sensory Processing II (vision) --Motor Control	Ch6 Ch8
8	July 23	Term Test #2 (Cumulative, focus on Lectures 5, 6, 7)	
9	July 28	-Brain Development and Damage	Ch9-10
10	Aug 30	-Learning & Memory -Biological Rhythms and Sleep	Ch11 Ch14
11	Aug 4	-Motivation, Eating, Sexual Behaviour and Hormones	Ch12-13
12	Aug 6	-Emotions, stress, and psychiatric disorders	Ch17-18
	Aug 14	Final Exam (Cumulative, focus on Lectures 9-12)	