

**Psychology 270 – Introduction to Behavioural Neuroscience
2021/2022 Winter Term 1**

When: TTh, 9:30 – 10:45 am **Where:** SWNG 222

Instructor: Kiran Soma Ph.D., Professor
Office hour: by appointment (via Zoom)
Email: ksoma@psych.ubc.ca

I will only use email to schedule Zoom meetings.

TAs: Melody Salehzadeh: msalehzadeh@zoology.ubc.ca
Valerie Lo: valerie.lo@psych.ubc.ca
Jackson Schumacher: schumacher@psych.ubc.ca
Megan Liu: megliu97@student.ubc.ca
Office hours: by appointment (via Zoom)

The TAs will only use email to schedule Zoom meetings.

Course description:

This course will introduce you to the scientific study of behavioral neuroscience. Topics will include: neuroanatomy, neurochemistry, neuroendocrinology, and neural circuits for behaviors. This course is also designed to encourage critical and creative thinking, as well as improve written and oral communication. Questions and discussion are strongly encouraged.

Required Textbook: *Biological Psychology*, 13th Edition, J.W. Kalat. Can buy the book at the UBC Bookstore or Amazon etc.

Lectures: Lectures will be in person. Masks are required in lecture. I will try to ensure that all lectures are recorded. If we must go online (in middle of term), then lectures will be via Zoom and recorded. Lecture notes will be available on Canvas before the lecture. Print out slides (double-sided, 4 or 6 slides per page), so you can take notes on them during lecture (get a large 3-ring binder to store notes). The slides will be missing critical information that will be on exams. Missing information will be provided during lectures. Actively participate in lectures.

Labs: Labs will be in person. Masks are required in labs. Labs cannot be recorded. If we must go online, then labs will be via Zoom. **Labs will be Tues 2-4 pm (IRC 4) or 4-6 pm (ORCH 1001),** starting Sept 14. See the lab schedule on Canvas for details on activities and assessments.

Please arrive to lectures and labs on time. Late arrivals are disruptive.

All student laptops and tablets must be turned off and put away during lectures. No exceptions. Please take notes on printouts of the slides.

Turn off and put away your phone during lecture. Come to lectures to listen, think, and actively participate.

Covid Safety:

- **Do not come to lecture or lab if you are sick or have Covid symptoms.** If you're sick, then stay home – no matter what you might be sick with (e.g., cold, flu, other). Washing your hands and using hand sanitizer will reduce the chances that you will get a cold or flu. I will try to ensure that all lectures are recorded (this is not possible for labs). If you think you have Covid symptoms, do a self-assessment here: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>. **Rapid testing is available on and off campus.**
- **Do not come to class if have recently tested positive for Covid or are required to quarantine.** I will try to ensure that all lectures are recorded.
- Non-medical masks that cover nose and mouth are a primary tool to limit community infection. **Masks are required during our class meetings,** for your own protection and for the safety and comfort of everyone else. I will lecture with a mask.
- If you are not fully vaccinated against Covid-19, vaccines are available to you, free and on campus. The higher the rate of vaccination in our community overall, the lower the chance of spreading this virus. **Please get fully vaccinated.**
- Please be safe and **use good judgement outside of class.**
- The marking scheme is intended to provide flexibility, so that you can prioritize your health and still be able to succeed.
 - **I will drop your lowest score of the 2 midterm exams** (Midterm 1, Midterm 2).
- If you miss a lecture/lab because of illness:
 - Make a connection early in the term with another student or a group of students in the class. You can help each other by sharing notes. If you don't yet know anyone in the class, post on the discussion forum on Canvas to connect with other students.
 - Consult resources on Canvas. I will post slides and recordings for each lecture.
 - Use the discussion forum on Canvas for help.
 - Come to office hours with me or a TA (via Zoom).
- If you miss a midterm exam because of illness:
 - You must email me within 24 hours.
 - If you show up for an exam and you are clearly ill, then I will ask you to go home.
- If you miss the final exam because of illness:
 - Apply for deferred standing (academic concession) within 48 hours of the missed final exam. Students who are granted deferred standing write the final exam at a later date.
- If you have a question, please ask it during lecture or office hours. **Do not come up to the lectern at the end of lecture.**

- If I am ill, develop Covid symptoms, or test positive for Covid, then I will not come to class. The same applies to the TAs. If that happens, here's what you can expect:

- Another professor will substitute.
- One of your TAs will substitute.
- If I am well enough to teach, but taking precautions to avoid infecting others, we may have an online lecture or two (via Zoom). If this happens, you will receive an email or announcement in Canvas telling you how to join the class. This might be a last-minute email. Our classroom will still be available for you to sit and attend an online session.

***** Do the readings before the lectures. This will help you follow the lectures. *****

	Topic	Readings
Sep 7	Imagine UBC (no lecture or labs)	none
Sep 9	What is behavioural neuroscience?	3-14,110-112, 502-504
Sep 14	Neuroanatomy 1	67-81
Sep 16	Neuroanatomy 2	82-100
Sep 21	Neurochemistry 1	18-39, 496-500
Sep 23	Neurochemistry 2	41-59, 460-467
Sep 28	Neuroendocrinology 1	59-64, 321-325
Sep 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	none
Oct 5	Neuroendocrinology 2 & Midterm 1 info	376-377
Oct 7	Midterm 1	none
Oct 12	Neural development 1	103-10, 117-27, 492-5
Oct 14	Neural development 2	127-135, 390-392
Oct 19	Neurobiology of sleep and rhythms 1	257-267
Oct 21	Neurobiology of sleep and rhythms 2	93, 268-287
Oct 26	Neurobiology of feeding behavior 1	303-309
Oct 28	Neurobiology of feeding behavior 2	309-319
Nov 2	Midterm 2 info and review	review
Nov 4	Midterm 2	none
Nov 9	Neurobiology of reproductive behavior 1	322-336, 454-456
Nov 11	Remembrance Day	none
Nov 16	Neurobiology of reproductive behavior 2	337-348
Nov 18	Neurobiology of emotional behaviors 1	351-365
Nov 23	Neurobiology of emotional behaviors 2	365-375, 468-479
Nov 25	Neurobiology of cognitive functions 1	424-440
Nov 30	Neurobiology of cognitive functions 2	441-451
Dec 2	Final info and review	review
Dec 7	Conclusions	review

Evaluation:

- Midterm 1
- Midterm 2
- Final exam 35%
- Laboratory 40%
- **We will drop your lowest score of the 2 midterms (Midterm 1 and Midterm 2), and the remaining midterm will be worth 25%.**

• In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology classes are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. **However, in the spirit of flexibility and compassion in light of COVID-19 and the return to in-person teaching, those departmental norms have been adjusted upwards by 5% for 2021W.** According to these adjusted norms, the average grade in 100- and 200-level Psychology classes will be 72 for an exceptionally strong class, 70 for an average class, and 68 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 14. The corresponding figures for 300- and 400-level classes will be 75, 73, and 71, with a standard deviation of 13. Scaling may be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by an instructor or the department. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.

Exams:

- Material from both the lectures and readings will be on the exams.
- **Midterm 2 is not cumulative.**
- **The final exam is cumulative,** but with strong emphasis on the last third of the course.
- Exams will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions.
- Short-answer questions emphasize critical thinking, analysis of experimental design, interpretation of data, and proposing new experiments
- Students can view their marked exams with their TA or professor. The exam remains the property of the university.
- **Regrade requests must be made in writing to the professor. The professor reserves the right to regrade the entire exam (not just a particular question), which means that your grade could go down upon regrading.**
- **We will drop your lowest score of the 2 midterm exams (Midterm 1, Midterm 2).**

Policy on missed tests and extensions:

- **Make-up tests will be given for medical reasons.**
- **If you miss an exam, you must email the professor within 24 hours of the exam.**
- **Do not come to an exam if you are sick or have Covid symptoms.**

Psychology Department's position on academic misconduct:

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns, and the Dept of Psychology has taken steps to reduce them. The Department has implemented *software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams* by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In cases of suspected misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by UBC guidelines. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. The President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

Special accommodations:

The University accommodates students with medical conditions via the Centre for Accessibility.

Students who will be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments generally cannot be accommodated. In these cases, you must ask your instructor during the first week of class – not later than that.

Course restrictions:

Enrollment is required of and restricted to B.Sc. Behavioural Neuroscience students.

Laboratory policies:

See Canvas and the TAs for specific rules and policies.

A final note:

Information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the Academic Calendar. If you need information about studying, note taking or time management, then free workshops and advice are available from the Student Resources Centre and other student advising centres on campus. **Or talk to me or the TAs during office hours!**