THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PSYC 301-951:
BRAIN DYSFUNCTION AND RECOVERY
2018 SUMMER TERM 2

Tuesdays/Thursdays, 10am-1pm, Buchanan A201

Instructor: Dr. Jay Hosking, Department of Psychology

Email: jayhosking@psych.ubc.ca
I respond to emails Monday-Friday. When contacting me, please use your UBC email, and please note which course you are in (i.e. PSYC301-951).

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment (please email me)

TA: Michael Barrus, PhD candidate, Department of Psychology

TA email: michaelbarrus@psych.ubc.ca
Michael responds to emails Monday-Friday. When contacting him, please use your UBC email, and please note which course you are in (i.e. PSYC301-951).

TA office hours: by appointment (please email him)

About PSYC301
Comprised of 10-100 billion neurons, with each cell connected to thousands of other neurons, the human brain is a staggeringly complex biological mechanism with nearly infinite routes through which neural signals can flow. Compared to the cells of other organs, which may be replaced over time, the very same brain cells are present with you from your earliest experiences to your death. Your brain is responsible for what you call your “self”: all your preferences, perceptions, memories, dreams, ambitions, desires, goals, emotions, and unique inferences are housed within the “pile of pudding” that accounts for a mere 2-3% of your body. And humans take great advantage of this organ, whether it’s creating works of art, lifelong friendships, space stations, or just appreciating the beauty of a sunset over the Pacific.

This course is about what happens when our brains becomes dysfunctional—whether through damage, development, or otherwise—and the extent to which the brain can repair or compensate for this dysfunction. Much of what we’ll be discussing is only poorly or partially understood, but we have made amazing leaps in our understanding over the last 100 years. We study human brain dysfunction and recovery because 1) it provides insight into how the healthy brain functions, and 2) it provides novel therapeutic targets for treating the behavioural, cognitive, emotional, and other disorders that may come with brain dysfunction.
By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Explain and critically evaluate current topics and research in the field of neuropsychology
- Describe basic neuroscientific processes in the fundamental language of neuroscience (i.e. neuroanatomical and neurophysiological terms)
- Link many brain dysfunctions to changes in behaviour, cognition, etc.
- Explain how the link between brain and psychology can be investigated using a range of neuroscience and psychological tools
- Evaluate the relative strengths and legitimacy of evidence related to brain dysfunction and recovery
- Appreciate the highly interconnected and integrative nature of brain, mind, and recovery

Website: canvas.ubc.ca
All lecture slides, readings, and messages sent to all students (e.g. grades) will come through Canvas. Please let me know if you’re having any issues with the website!

Note on readings:
PSYC301 currently does not have a textbook, as no one textbook satisfactorily covers the content discussed in the course. However, there are readings assigned for many of the lectures, and these readings can be found on Canvas in the lecture-specific folders. In addition, I will supply a number of optional, but very useful resources for those students looking for more information on the brain basics, including books and a massive open online course (MOOC) module. Please check Canvas for more information.

Note on email:
Please bear in mind that instructors get a lot of email and, if possible, would prefer to spend all their preparation time on making the lectures as useful and interesting to you as possible. Thus, please keep emails to administrative concerns (e.g. booking office hours) if you can. If you do send an email that is related to the course content, it should contain no more than one question, and you should try to explain your current understanding of the content in the email (which will be affirmed or corrected by us). But really, if you’re struggling with content, please book some office hours!

Prerequisites
There are two prerequisites for the course:
1. You have completed two of PSYC101, 102, 205, 207, 208, 216, or 217 (PSYC101/102, and either PSYC216 or 217, is strongly recommended).
2. You are in the second year or later of your undergraduate degree, you are in a graduate degree, you are qualifying for a graduate degree, or you are an unclassified student.
EVALUATION

1. Exams (up to 100%):
   There will be three exams, with the final exam written during the exam period at a time
designated by the Registrar’s Office (you must be able to write at any time during the exam
period), and two midterm exams written during the first half of class time (i.e. 90min).

   **Midterm Exam 1 (30%)**  July 17th  
   **Midterm Exam 2 (30%)**  August 2nd  
   **Final Exam (40%)**  August 14th-18th

Notes on the exams:

- Midterm 2 is not cumulative, but the final exam is cumulative.
- There will be no make-up exams for the midterms.
- You will not be accommodated for missing an exam unless you present evidence of
  unavoidable hardship with 48 hours of missing the exam.
- Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other
  commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and must discuss their
  commitments with me by 10th July 2018 if they wish to be considered for accommodation. (See “Attendance” below for more on this.)
- Being accommodated for missing a midterm exam is at our sole discretion.
- If you are accommodated for missing a midterm exam, that portion of your course grade
  will be evenly split between the other midterm and the final exam. If you are
  accommodated for missing both midterms, which is exceedingly rare, you will be
  assigned a research project to make up for the portion of the grade corresponding to
  midterms 1 and 2.
- If you miss the final exam, you must contact your Faculty Academic Advising Office to
  address the issue—note that they will probably require medical or other documentation.
  Please refer to the UBC Calendar for details of “academic concession”. Note that make-
  ups for the final will differ from the version used for the rest of the class.
- You will not be able to write an exam is 1) you are more than 30 minutes late, or 2) another student has already submitted their exam and left the exam room—whichever
  occurs first.
- Note that, during exams, instructors or invigilators reserve the right to move you to a new
  seat without providing an explanation.
- There will be topics covered in class that are not in the readings and materials in the
  readings that are not covered in class. You will be responsible for both. That is, all
  readings and all lecture materials are examinable.
- All exams will include multiple-choice and short-answer questions.
- Once exams have been marked, grades will be sent out via mass message on Canvas.
- You are strongly encouraged to review your exam with your TA.
- Grade adjustments are very uncommon but if a dispute between TA and student occurs
  for grading, Jay will regrade that component of your exam—this can result in the same
  grade, an increase, or a decrease, depending on Jay’s judgement of your answer. Any
  grading disputes must be handled within 2 weeks of exam grades being released.
2. Optional Project (up to 25%):
You may elect to do a project on a topic of your choosing that related to our course (i.e. is about brain dysfunction and/or recovery). This is a project written specifically for this course; handing in work done for another course (past or present) is not acceptable. If you elect to do the project, the grade you receive on that project will be worth 25% of your final grade, and the grades you receive on each of the exams will be worth the following: Midterm 1 (22.5%), Midterm 2 (22.5%), Final Exam (30%).

There are three purposes to this optional project: 1) To offer you the chance to explore a topic of interest in greater depth than the lectures and readings can provide; 2) To assess your ability to think critically and creatively; 3) To offer you a chance to explore other ways of expressing your knowledge. As such, the content of your project should not overlap substantially with the material in the text or lectures.

Although the standard format for this project is a review paper (described below), you may pursue other project formats if you have a strong vision and can convince me that you can adequately convey your knowledge. In past, students have submitted short videos, painting series, computer models, musical compositions, and so on. But remember: the important part is for you to demonstrate what you have learned on the subject, and these alternate formats often make that tricky.

If you would like to write a review paper as your project, please use American Psychological Association (APA) style. Your intended audience for the paper should be someone who has already taken this course. You are expected to read a minimum of 10 peer-reviewed journal articles as part of your research, and your paper should not be less than 2500 words in length (excluding title page, abstract, and references). Use up-to-date sources wherever possible.

You will need to clear your project topic and format with Jay by July 12th; please send me an email with your proposal, and if you’re doing an alternate-format project, we may also meet for office hours.

Grading criteria are tailored to specific project types, but are always 35% content, 35% critical thinking, and 30% “pizazz” (organization, flow, creativity, lateral thinking, eloquence, etc.).

Any optional projects are due on Thursday, August 9th, 2018 by 11:59pm. You must upload an electronic copy (.doc or .docx) to TurnItIn (see below). You may also hand in a paper copy, especially if you’re using a pseudonym for TurnItIn (see below).

TurnItIn instructions. To submit your paper on TurnItIn, you will need to go to turnitin.com, create an account (see below) if you do not yet have one, select “enrol in a class”, enter our Class ID (18371321) and our Enrolment Key (dysfunction), and submit your paper as a Microsoft .doc or .docx file. Be sure that your paper and electronic copies match.

Setting up an account on TurnItIn. To submit your paper, you’ll need to create a unique user profile, consisting of a username (email address) and a password. Please note that the information submitted to TurnItIn is stored in the United States.
If you have any concerns about privacy and TurnItIn, it is recommended that you remove identifying information, such as your name and student number, from the text of your project submitted to TurnItIn. In addition, please follow these instructions:
1. Create an anonymous email address using one of the available free services.
2. Go to turnitin.com.
3. Create an account and select “student” for your account type.
4. Enter the Class ID (18371321) and Enrolment Key (dysfunction).
5. Create an alias or pseudonym. Please remember to include that alias/pseudonym on the cover of the paper copy.
6. Please delete any identifying information from the original document prior to uploading it. This includes your name and student number in the document, as well as any metadata or hidden data that might be stored in the document itself. To remove metadata from your Microsoft Word document: Use Word’s Document Inspector in Windows, or Word > Preferences > Security > “Remove personal information” in MacOS.

Late policy. Late submission of the optional project will result in a penalty of 10% per day of the week; for example, your due date is 11:59pm on a Thursday, and if you submit at 12:01am on Friday (i.e. two minutes late), you will lose 10%.

3. Research participation (up to 3% bonus):
You may earn up to 3 extra percentage points on your overall final grade by participating in studies regularly conducted by the Psychology Department and coordinated through the human subject pool (HSP). This provides you with the opportunity to observe the research process directly and to contribute to ongoing research activities at UBC. The extra credits are obtained by signing up for the subject pool at ubc-psych.sona-systems.com, or by completing library writing projects (please see the HSP website). If you plan to earn extra credit through research participation, please register in this online system as soon as possible, as the participation window closes (you can find more details at psych.ubc.ca/undergraduate/human-subject-pool).

COURSE SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 3rd</td>
<td>Course introduction; brain basics; neurons and neural communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 5th</td>
<td>Neurons cont’d; neuroanatomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 10th</td>
<td>Structural and functional neuroimaging; neurological exam &amp; assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 12th</td>
<td>Causes of brain dysfunction; prefrontal brain dysfunction</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 17th</td>
<td><strong>Midterm exam 1</strong>: causes of brain dysfunction cont’d</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19th</td>
<td>Neurological disorders; epilepsy</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 24th</td>
<td>Factors influencing recovery of function; dysfunction affecting attention</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 26th</td>
<td>Dysfunction affecting perception, language, sensorimotor function</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 31st</td>
<td>Dysfunction affecting memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2nd</td>
<td><strong>Midterm exam 2</strong>: dysfunction associated with psychiatric disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 7th</td>
<td>Dysfunction associated with psychiatric disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9th</td>
<td>Psychopathy; course completion; <strong>optional project due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 14th – 18th</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
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GRADING

Your grade for each exam (and your optional project, if applicable) will be sent to you via Canvas. If you wish to inspect your exam, you may do so by meeting with your TA.

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms for grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70% for a good class, 68% for an average class, and 66% for a weak class (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 the instructors or the department. Grades are not official until they appear on your transcript. You will receive both a percent and a letter grade for this course. At UBC, your course percentage is converted to a letter grade according to the following key:

A+: 90-100%  A: 85-89%  A-: 80-84%
B+: 76-79%  B: 72-75%  B-: 68-71%
C+: 64-67%  C: 60-63%  C-: 55-59%
D: 50-54%  F: 0-49%

Because you are earning a degree at a highly reputable post-secondary institution, the criteria for success are high. The Faculty of Arts offers the following guidelines that broadly characterize the kind of work that is generally associated with the particular grade ranges. These characteristics help put the Psychology Department grading policies into perspective. Please note that adequate performance is in the C range.

A Range: Exceptional Performance. Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization in written work; capacity to analyze (i.e. break ideas down) and to synthesize (i.e. bring different ideas together in a coherent way); superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

B Range: Competent Performance. Evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.

C-D Range: Adequate Performance. Understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but uninspired work; not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigor.

F Range: Inadequate Performance. Little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is a critical predictor of success in this course. (In fact, it’s a strong correlate of success for courses in general.) In this course, material that is taught in class will often be different from, or supplement, the readings. Moreover, lecture slides are designed to provide a framework for the lecture and any discussions. In other words, the important part of the lecture is not what is on the slides, but rather the lecture itself. If you try to rely solely on the slides for studying, you will not be successful, as much of the critical information is not explicitly written. It is therefore essential that you attend class, as well as read ahead. If you do have to miss a class, you are responsible for getting notes from another student.
During your time in this course, if you encounter medical, emotional, or other personal problems that affect your attendance or academic performance, please notify us as soon as possible, as well as your Faculty Academic Advising Office. Please refer to the UBC Calendar for a discussion of academic concession.

The university accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Access & Diversity office (see below). The university also accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance or scheduled exams. Please let us know in advance, by 10th July 2018 if possible, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Other absences (e.g. varsity athletics, family obligations, or similar) are not part of the university policy and you should not assume they will be accommodated. Please discuss this with us before 10th July 2018.

Other Course Policies
Access & Diversity. UBC is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students including those with documented physical or learning disabilities. If you believe you fall in this category, please visit the website for Access & Diversity (students.ubc.ca/about/access) to take the necessary steps to ensure that you have every opportunity that you deserve to excel in your studies.

Office hours. Please consider visiting your TA’s office hour if you would like to review one of your exams (note: only your TA will have your exams). When reviewing your exam, you are not allowed to take notes on, or photos of, the exam. You should also connect with your TA if you would like to discuss content from the course readings and/or study strategies, or you would like to discuss psychology and neuroscience more generally.

Please consider visiting Jay’s office hour if you would like to discuss lecture content or if you have an issue with course performance or progress.

Classroom conduct. Our classroom is a place where you should feel safe and respected. It should also be a place that is conducive to learning and intellectual inquiry. Any behaviour on your part that compromises that environment will not be tolerated and you will be asked to leave.

Points to remember!:
• Productive classroom discussion and debate are encouraged.
• You are responsible for all readings and lecture materials.
• Lecture slides will be available on Canvas. However, if you miss a lecture, don’t expect to find all of what you missed in the slides.
• Lecture slides will be posted on Canvas the night before each lecture. This is done as a courtesy. Please be aware that we may make significant changes to the slides between that time and the lecture the next day. Final versions of lecture slides will be posted no later than the Friday following a lecture, and will be marked as “final version”.
• Please be aware that some of the content in this course can be challenging for those without some background in biology. I will try to provide additional, optional reading sources for you to pursue, should you wish.
- Laptops and similar devices can be effective learning tools and are welcome in class. However, if you are using them for non-class-related activities, it can be distracting for others. So if you plan to use devices for any non-class-related activities, please sit at the back of the room.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**
Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the university, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the university. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), 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 the student’s transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult with us. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (students.ubc.ca/calendar) and read the University’s Policy 69 (available at universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html).

**WELLNESS RESOURCES**
Below is a list of resources you may want to use if you are struggling in any way to manage your responsibilities while in school or the stresses of life in general.

**The Kaleidoscope:**
the-kaleidoscope.com
A confidential peer-run mental health support group that takes place on campus at least once a week. You may attend the group if you are experiencing any kind of mental health related challenges, or if you’re just feeling stressed about school in general. Registration is not required to attend the group. See the website for meeting times and locations. Food and drink are provided.

**Counselling Services:**
students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/counselling-services
Phone number: 604-822-3811
Counselling services offers a variety of resources to help you maintain your mental health while in school. You may see a counsellor on an individual basis, attend group counselling, or to document an illness if you should require academic concession.

**SpeakEasy:**
ams.ubc.ca/services/speakeasy/
Phone number: 604-822-9246
A student run service that offers confidential support for students experiencing crisis. Also a good resource for additional information and referrals within the UBC community.

**SHARE:**
www.vivreshare.org
Self Harm Anonymous Recovery and Education is a program designed to promote self care and educate about self harm. SHARE support groups meet biweekly; times and locations can be found on their website.
UBC Wellness Centre:  
students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/wellness-centre  
Phone number: 604-822-8450  
Speak with other students about tips for managing stress, keeping healthy sleep and eating patterns, concerns about safe sex and more.

Access and Diversity:  
students.ubc.ca/about/access  
Phone number: 604-822-5844  
Access and Diversity provides accommodations for students living with physical or mental disabilities.

Student Health Services:  
students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/student-health-service  
Phone number: 604-822-7011  
Student health provides students with a variety of healthcare related services to help you maintain your health while studying. Access to doctors and registered nurses.

Mood Disorders Clinic UBC:  
ubc-mooddisorders.vch.ca/  
A psychiatric program designed specifically to treat individuals living with depression or bipolar disorder.

Live Well, Learn Well:  
students.ubc.ca/livewelllearnwell  
The Live Well, Learn Well initiative is a resource hub that provides students with information to help improve physical and mental wellbeing.

Mental Health Awareness Club:  
ubcmhac.sites.olt.ubc.ca/  
A club that offers opportunities to speak about mental health with others and strives to promote mental health awareness throughout the UBC community.

Pacific Spirit Addiction Services:  
3rd Floor, 2110 West 43rd Ave Vancouver B.C. V6M 2E1  
Phone number: 604-267-3970  
A free and confidential service for you and young adults up to the age of 24. Services include counselling, access to an addiction physician—including usage of a methadone maintenance program—and a drug education series.

AMS Food Bank:  
ams.ubc.ca/services/food-bank/  
If you are in a financial emergency AMS food bank can provide you with a food hamper. You are able to use the service up to 6 times each term.

UBC Psychology Clinic:  
clinic.psych.ubc.ca  
Professional psychological services provided to the community, including assessment & treatment for children, adults & families by clinical psychology trainees.

BC Crisis Center:  
crisiscentre.bc.ca  
Phone number: 604-872-3311  
Non-profit, volunteer-driven organization that provides emotional support to youth, adults, and seniors in crisis in BC. Crisis line available 24/7.

Distress Line:  
Phone number: 1-800-Suicide (784-2433)  
If you are in distress or are worried about someone in distress who may hurt themselves, call 1-800-SUICIDE 24 hours a day to connect to a BC crisis line, without a wait or busy signal.