Course Overview

Welcome to Psychology 304 – Brain and Behaviour. The study of the human brain and how it relates to behaviour is a fascinating field, and I hope that you will enjoy the journey upon which we are about to embark.

Before we dive into the content of the course, I would like everyone to spend some time familiarizing yourself with the how the course works. This is the exactly the purpose of the first online module which aims to orient you to how the course will proceed, inform you about the course requirements (assignments, discussions and final exam), and familiarize you with the basics of using the Canvas platform that the course is resides in.

Note that you will find the course schedule also contained within the first online module. I’d highly recommend that you print this and keep it handy and enter the critical dates into your own calendar.

Course Materials

**Required Textbook**


**Optional Text Website**

MyPsychLab at [www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com](http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com) You can use this website if the version of the text you purchased provided you with an access code. This is completely optional.

Calendar description

**PSYC 304 (6 credits) Brain and Behaviour**

The neurobiological bases of behaviour; brain processes involved in perception, motivation, emotion, psychopathology, learning and memory. Open to all Arts and Science majors except those in the B.Sc. Psychology program. Credit will not be given for both PSYC 304 and PSYC 360.

**Prerequisite:** Either (a) PSYC 100 or (b) two of PSYC 101, PSYC 102, PSYC 205, PSYC 207, PSYC 208, PSYC 216, PSYC 217. Strongly recommended: PSYC 101 and PSYC 216 or 217 or 260.
**Overview of Readings and Activities**

This course is divided into six modules as indicated in the table below.

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*Refer to the Course Schedule for dates.

**Course Grading**

Your grade in the course will be based on your performance on two written assignments, participation in scheduled online discussions and a final examination.

**Graded Assignments**

There are two written assignments due on specific dates (the first assignment is due in term 1 and the second in term 2).

See the Assignment Information section on the course website for more information and refer to the Course Schedule for the specific due dates.

Assignment 1 is worth 18% of your grade and Assignment 2 is worth 20% of your grade.

**Scheduled Online Discussions**

There will be nine scheduled online discussions held during specific dates.

Participation in Discussion 1 is worth 1%. For all remaining discussions (Discussions 2-9) participation in each scheduled discussion is worth 2%. Your posting may be awarded a 2/2 (good), a 1/2 (okay but
could have put more thought or effort into it) or a 0/0 (poor or no posting made during the scheduled time).

Refer to the Course Schedule for the dates that these discussions are scheduled. You will not receive points for posting before or after these dates. The topic for each discussion will be posted in the discussion forum just prior to the start of the scheduled time for discussion.

Participation in scheduled online discussions is worth 17% of your course grade.

Final Examination

The final exam is a mixture of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, short answers and short essay questions. Please see the section on the course website called Preparing for the Final Exam which provides detail about the final examination plus a practice examination which is similar in format and difficulty to the actual final examination.

You should start preparing for the final exam from the very start of the course by rereading material, taking notes, and developing study aids. The more that you work with the material, the more you will integrate and the easier it will be for you to prepare during the few weeks prior to the final examination.

The final examination comprises 40% of your course grade.

Calculation of Final Grade

The following weightings will be used in calculating your final grade.

| Assignment 1 | 18% |
| Assignment 2 | 20% |
| Discussions  | 17% |
| Final Examination | 45% |

Important Policies

Grade Distribution

The Psychology Department requires a normal grade distribution. For a 300-level Psychology course, I am required to submit an average grade of approximately 68% and designated percentages of A’s, B’s, C’s, D’s, and F’s. If I fail to submit grades meeting these criteria, the Psychology Department will scale the grades to conform to these standards. Grading of the assignments and examination will therefore match these requirements - with the average grade falling approximately between 65-70% to avoid scaling of grades.
Plagiarism

Psychology Department's Position on 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 the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to TurnItIn--a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. Materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized 'Originality Reports' containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

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. The University of British Columbia 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.

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 you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. If you are uncertain as to what is considered plagiarism in general, please see the UBC Guide to Academic Integrity at [http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoid-plagiarism/](http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoid-plagiarism/).

In general, please do not "cut and paste" material from the Internet into an assignment or copy from journal articles or books or another student’s work and claim the material as your own. The words you use must be your own words. Be careful to always provide in-text citations and references when citing a source.

Two Indispensable Links

1. **UBC Distance Learning – Learner Support** - [http://distancelearning.ubc.ca/learner-support/](http://distancelearning.ubc.ca/learner-support/)

   Once you have finished reading this introduction, please take some time to read over the Learner Support information. Here you will also find important information on policies and procedures (e.g., withdrawals, extensions) and key contacts.

2. **UBC Library** - [http://www.library.ubc.ca/](http://www.library.ubc.ca/)

   Your assignment will require you to do a literature search. The best place to do these literature searches and obtain copies of articles is through the UBC Library website. If you are not familiar with how to do literature searches using a database such as Medline, see the help available via the UBC Library website or ask a UBC librarian in person. The UBC Library has a lot of other useful information such as how to cite references (using APA style) and avoid plagiarism.

Please take some time reviewing the information and resources available on both of these websites.