



PSYC-250 – Introduction to Brain and Behaviour

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2022

Course Outline Review Date: 2025-04-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Description:

This course is an introduction to the fascinating and complex relationship between brain and behavior. The structural and functional anatomy of the central nervous system is featured with particular emphasis on the neural pathways involved in both normal and pathological behavior. Throughout the course, students will recognize the special abilities that stem from our human brains and that are shared across cultures. In addition, they will consider how neural functioning differs among individuals based on factors such as genetics, experience, and injury.

Program Information:

This course can be used as an elective in several University Studies Programs. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face)

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Social Sciences

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	

Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

- Earned a minimum grade of C- (55%) in each of the following:
 - **PSYC101** – Introduction to Psychology 1 (3)
 - **PSYC102** – Introduction to Psychology 2 (3)

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at other BC institutions, please see <http://www.bctransferguide.ca>. All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in BC or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrollment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbook was in use:

Kalat, J.W. (2019). *Biological Psychology* (13th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- describe the neuroanatomy and neurophysiology underlying the function of the human nervous system;
- describe the development and evolution of brain structure and function;
- describe the relationship between neural systems and a subset of human behaviours including sensation, perception, movement, consciousness, motivation, emotion, learning, memory, and thinking;
- analyze the relationship between brain and pathological behavior;
- discuss ways of knowing about the brain and its relationship to behavior;
- critically evaluate research in the field of biological psychology;
- discuss ethical issues surrounding the field of biological psychology; and
- demonstrate knowledge for diverse perspectives on key topics.

Course Topics:

- neuroanatomy and neurophysiology;
- research methods;
- brain development and neuroplasticity;
- sensation and perception;
- movement;
- sleep and wakefulness;
- motivation and internal regulation;
- reproduction;
- emotion and stress;
- learning and memory;
- cognition; and
- neurological and psychological disorders.

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face)

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Essays/Assignments	30%
Class Participation	10%
Midterm Exams/Quizzes	40%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Pass requirements: None

Evaluation Notes: A grade of “D” grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Evaluation Notes Comments:

Please see the instructor syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments, and the use of electronic aids.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a “0” on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
- Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty

Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.