



**Brescia University College**  
**LONDON CANADA**

**Psychology 2221a, section 530**  
**Introduction to the Biological Basis of Behaviour**

**Dr. Shelley Cross-Mellor**  
**Intersession 2016**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to the principles of evolutionary biology, genetics, and physiology in relation to behaviour. This course is intended as an introduction to the biological basis of behaviour for students who do not have a background in biology. The biological basis of major aspects of behaviour in humans, and other animals, will be discussed, including motor control, perception, sleep and waking cycles, hunger, reproduction, learning, memory, motivation, stress, and behavioural disorders.

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in a 1000 level Psychology course.

**Antirequisites:** Psychology 2220A/B.

*Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Shelley Cross-Mellor

**Office:** UH 356

**E-mail:** scrossmellor@gmail.com

**Office Hrs:** by appointment (please email)

**Time, Location of Class:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-12pm; BR 303

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- a) To be able to explain the meaning of words in the biopsychology vocabulary
- b) To describe and apply the major principles of biopsychology including
  - i. Behaviour is caused by brain activity
  - ii. Behaviour is determined by on-going events and previous experiences.
  - iii. Biopsychology is a way of studying behaviour, not a body of knowledge. Researchers use specialized methods to examine the biology of behaviour. They interpret

- observations to draw conclusions.
- c) Use judgement to identify the most important information and integrate elements in biopsychology
- d) Actively participate in group discussions and in-class learning activities

## TEXTBOOK

**Required:** Pinel, J. P. J. (2013). *Biopsychology*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Pearson.

## CLASS SCHEDULE - subject to change, see WebCT and class for updates

| <u>Date</u>     | <u>Topic</u>                                       | <u>Chapter(s)</u> |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Tues May 17     | Intro & What is biopsychology?                     | 1                 |
| Thurs May 19    | The anatomy of the nervous system                  | 3                 |
| Tues May 24     | Neural Conduction & synaptic transmission          | 4                 |
| Thurs. May 26   | <b>TEST 1</b>                                      |                   |
| Tues. May 31    | Research methods in biopsychology                  | 5                 |
| Thurs. June 2   | Visual system & Perception                         | 6 and 7           |
| Tues. June 7    | <b>TEST 2 &amp;</b>                                |                   |
|                 | Video – How the Brain Changes Itself               |                   |
| Thurs. June 9   | Neuropsychological Diseases                        | 10                |
| Tues. June 14   | Learning, Memory and Amnesia                       | 11                |
| Thurs. June 16  | <b>TEST 3 – optional** &amp;</b>                   |                   |
|                 | Hunger and Eating and Health                       | 12                |
| Tues. June 21   | Drug Addiction                                     | 15                |
| Thurs. June 23  | Emotion, Stress and Health & Psychiatric Disorders | 17<br>18          |
| Mon. June 27 OR |  |                   |
| Tues. June 28   | Final Exam   |                   |

---

Topics will be covered in the order given above. *Approximate* lecture dates are listed so that you can keep up with the readings. It is best to read the assigned chapter briefly before class, and then return to the text and reread the material more carefully after we have discussed it. In class, I will discuss those parts of the chapter that I feel are the most important, most difficult, or the most interesting and may update and expand upon the topic. Classes will include lectures, video clips, films, demonstrations and activities to help further understand material. You are not responsible for chapters that do not appear on the class schedule.

---

## CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

**In order to make the most of this learning experience for yourself and your fellow students, PLEASE**

- Do not use computers in class *for any reason*, except to take notes.
- Do not send or read e-mails/text messages/IM's during class time.

- Turn off cell phones.
- Refrain from speaking to a neighbour during class time (unless invited to do so by the instructor), especially if someone (either the instructor or a fellow class member) is speaking to the class.

These activities can be very distracting to your fellow students and to the instructor.

### **EVALUATION & EXAM SCHEDULE**

There will be 3 tests and one final exam. The non-cumulative tests and exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, label the diagram and short answer questions. Please note that your best 2 out of 3 in-class tests plus your final exam grade will be used to calculate your final grade in the course.

The weighing and dates of these tests is as follows:

**Test #1 – 30%**

**Test #2 – 30%**

**Test #3 – 30% \*(This test is optional)\***

**Final Exam – 40%**

Note – your final grade in the course will be based on your **BEST two of three in-class test marks AND your final exam mark.**

### **TEST AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**

|                    |                          |                                    |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Test #1            | Thursday May 26          | Chapters 1, 3, 4 + lectures        |
| Test #2            | Tuesday June 7           | Chapters 5, 6, 7 + lectures        |
| *Test #3           | Thursday June 16         | Chapters 10, 11 + lectures         |
| <b>(*OPTIONAL)</b> |                          |                                    |
| Final Exam         | TBA – June 27 or June 28 | Chapters 12, 15, 17, 18 + lectures |

The tests and exam are closed book and no aids are allowed. Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. **Therefore, it is in your interest to avoid sitting near anyone you studied course material with.**

Please note that grades cannot be adjusted on the basis of need. Your mark in the course will be the mark that you earn. Tests and exams cannot be re-written to obtain a higher mark and there are no extra credit assignments available.

For questions regarding missed tests or exams, see the academic policies section attached, or consult the professor or an Academic Advisor.

## BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg117.html>

### 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

### 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment.

Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

#### 4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

##### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

##### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

#### 5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

## 6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

## 7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.html>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

---

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations