



Psychology 271

Course Syllabus

Instructor Information

Dr. M. Valsangkar-Smyth

Email: mv3@queensu.ca

You may email me directly with questions or if you have a general question that you feel others in your class may also have, you can post your question to the *Questions Forum* found on the Moodle Course homepage and then the entire class will see the response.

Before emailing a question, please ensure that the answer is not in the syllabus.

I will not be holding weekly office hours but if you have any questions or concerns you would like to discuss in person, please see me after class (not before) or email me and we can set up an appointment.

Teaching Assistant Information

Jeffery Rocca

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 4:15-6:15, Humphrey Hall 323

Email: 11jfr5@queensu.ca

Hyumon Pang

Office Hours: Mondays, 12:00-2:00, Humphrey Hall 301

Email: 6hp1@queensu.ca

Introduction to Psychology 271

PSYC 271 is a course designed to introduce you to the field of Behavioural Neuroscience. This course initially focuses on the basics of how neurons function, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, behavioural neuroscience methods, genetics and evolution. This will be followed by an examination of the sensory and motor systems and finally, topics relevant to lateralization of function will be covered.

This course has a 2-part learning objective:

- First, it is imperative to gain a working knowledge of basic brain terminology and functioning. This information can then be used to gain an understanding of how the brain is able to process complex information and respond accordingly.

- Second, you will learn about theories developed to explain how the brain works and also how scientists study the brain in order to assess these theories.

What does taking this course look like?

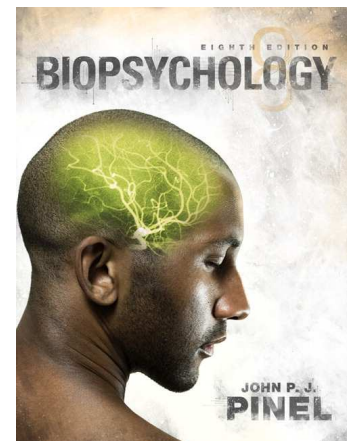
Each unit is made up of a set of resources including:

- lectures
- textbook readings
- online videos, demonstrations and exercises from the textbook website and youtube
- see unit checklist for all the requirements

Resources

Student Purchasing Options:

Pinel, Biopsychology with NEW MyPsychLab
8th edition (2011)



Text with NEW MyPsychLab access
ISBN: 0205216951

MyPsychLab standalone access code card (includes ebook) ISBN: 020522637X

MyPsychLab standalone access code card (**without** ebook) Purchase online through
<https://pearsonmylabandmastering.com/> when registering

Register Help

Select an Option

Use an Access Code

A prepaid access code might come with your textbook or in a separate kit.

[Access Code](#)

Use a Credit Card or PayPal

MyPsychLab (Course Compass) for Pinel, Biopsychology 8e-Instant Access-w/eText

[\\$85 USD](#)

MyPsychLab (Course Compass) for Pinel, Biopsychology 8e-Instant Access-STU w/o eText

[\\$35 USD](#)

Your Course

MyPsychLab for Pinel, Biopsychology, 8e
Course ID: valsangkar-smyth07066
Taught by Dr. Monica Valsangkar-Smyth at QUEENS UNIVERSITY
Course ends Aug 2, 2014

Not your course? Enter a different course ID.

Textbook Website

Please see the Powerpoint presentation for accessing the textbook website (Moodle Course Homepage).

The online videos, simulations and review quizzes can be found under Course Content/ Multimedia Library or Virtual Brain or Bioflix.

Schedule of topics

| Date | Unit/Topic | Readings from Pinel's Biopsychology |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sept. 12 | Biopsychology as a Neuroscience | Ch. 1 |
| Sept. 19 | Evolution, Genetics and Experience | Ch. 2 |
| Sept. 26 | Anatomy of the Nervous System | Ch. 3 |
| Oct. 3 | Neural Conduction and Synaptic Transmission | Ch. 4 |
| Oct. 10 | Midterm #1 The Research Methods of Biopsychology | Ch. 5 |
| Oct. 17 | The Research Methods of Biopsychology (cont'd) | Ch. 5 |
| Oct. 24 | The Visual System | Ch. 6 (p. 132-154) |
| Oct. 31 | Class Cancelled Online Video on Cortical Mechanisms of Vision | Ch. 6 (p.154-163) |
| Nov. 7 | Mechanisms of Perception | Ch. 7 (p. 165-187) |
| Nov. 14 | Midterm #2 Attention | Ch. 7 (p.187-190) |
| Nov. 21 | Sensorimotor Systems | Ch. 8 |
| Nov. 28 | Lateralization | Ch. 16 |

Course Mark Breakdown

| Component | % of final mark |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Midterm 1 – October 10 | 20% |
| Midterm 2 – November 14 | 20% |
| Final exam | 60% |
| | 100% |

PLEASE NOTE: If you require special accommodations for the midterm/final exam, please contact the instructor within the first 2 weeks of the course.

Midterm #1 (covering Units 1,2,3,4):

Midterm 1 will be held on October 10 during the first hour of classtime and is worth 20% of your final grade. It will consist of 10 multiple choice questions, 3 of 5 short answer questions and 1 of 3 long answer questions. Please note that there will not be any deferred midterms; but if a midterm is missed for a valid reason (documentation required), the percentage of the midterm will be added to the final exam.

Midterm #2 (covering Units 5,6,7(p.165-187)):

Midterm 2 will be held on November 14 during the first hour of classtime and is worth 20% of your final grade. It will consist of 10 multiple choice questions, 3 of 5 short answer questions and 1 of 3 long answer questions. Please note that there will not be any deferred midterms; but if a midterm is missed for a valid reason (documentation required), the percentage of the midterm will be added to the final exam.

Final Exam:

The 3-hour final exam will be written during the Exam Period (December 5-20). It will consist of 120 Multiple Choice Questions, covering the entire course and is worth 60% of your final grade.

Please Note: Students who cannot write an exam during the December exam period due to a serious, extenuating circumstance (with supporting documentation required) must be available to write a deferred exam during the Psychology Department's *Make up Exam period* January 11/12th.

Grading

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

| Grade | Numerical Course Average (Range) |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| A+ | 90-100 |
| A | 85-89 |
| A- | 80-84 |
| B+ | 77-79 |
| B | 73-76 |
| B- | 70-72 |
| C+ | 67-69 |
| C | 63-66 |
| C- | 60-62 |
| D+ | 57-59 |
| D | 53-56 |
| D- | 50-52 |
| F | 49 and below |

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html>).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity.

Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/2011-2012-calendar/academic-regulations/regulation-1>), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/academic-integrity>), and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

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