

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSYC-215-Biological Psychology

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: 2025W

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face-to-face

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dr. Michael Pollock

EMAIL: If you need to contact me about an urgent personal matter, you can email me at pollockm@camosun.ca. Otherwise, for help with course-related material outside of class time, please come see me during my office hours.

OFFICE: Fisher 308B

HOURS: Mondays at 11:30am to 12:20pm, and Fridays at 10:30am to 12:20pm

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course introduces basic topics and methods of modern biopsychology. Topics include: neuro-anatomy, testing and experimental methods, neural conduction, brain damage, perception, sexual behaviour, drug addiction, and memory. Students access study guides and exercises on the internet.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

C in PSYC 110

C in any 100-level BIOL course

C in any 100-level CHEM course

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EQUIVALENCIES:

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

Summarize the history of biopsychology, and the relationship of biopsychological theories and methods to the broader field of psychology.

Compare the most important research methods used in biopsychology.

Discuss the basic concepts, supporting the evidence for the interaction of evolution, genetics and experience in the development of behaviour.

Label and summarize the basic structures and functions of the human nervous system.

Explain the processes involved in neural conduction and synaptic transmission.

Label images of the human visual system and explain basic visual processes in the central nervous system.

Discuss the mechanisms of perception, consciousness, awareness and attention.

Describe the functioning of the human sensorimotor system.

Summarize the processes involved in the development of the human nervous system and the ways in which the human brain attempts to cope with brain damage with an emphasis on neuroplasticity.

Discuss human learning, memory and amnesia as they relate to the human brain.

Summarize human sexual development, human sexual dimorphism and the effects of hormones on human development and behaviour.

Describe a model of drug addiction and a general model of the effects of various drugs on the neuronal function.

Discuss various disorders of cognition and emotion with regard to the human brain.

Summarize the effects of stress and emotions on human neurophysiology.

Discuss the neurophysiology of schizophrenia, depression and anxiety and attempts to treat these disorders

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Pinel, J.P.J. & Barnes, S.J. (2018). *Biopsychology*. (10th ed.). Toronto: Pearson.

- Note: there is only a digital option available for this textbook through the Camosun College Bookstore (<https://www.camosuncollegebookstore.ca/>).

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

DATE	CLASS	READINGS DUE	LECTURE TOPIC	QUIZ/EXAM DUE
2025-01-07	Lecture		Introduction & Overview	
2025-01-10	Lab			
2025-01-14	Lecture	Ch. 1: Biopsychology as a Neuroscience; Ch. 5.1: Methods of Visualizing or Stimulating the Living Human Brain	Lecture #1. Biopsyc & its Methods	Online Quiz #1 due day before
2025-01-17	Lab			In-class Quiz #1 due in lab
2025-01-21	Lecture	Ch. 2.3: Fundamental Genetics; Ch. 2.5: Genetics of Human Psychological Differences	Lecture #2. Behavioral Genetics	Online Quiz #2 due day before
2025-01-24	Lab			In-class Quiz #2 due in lab
2025-01-28	Lecture	Ch. 3.2: Cells of the Nervous System; Ch. 4.1-3: Neural Conduction	Lecture #3. Electrophysiology	Online Quiz #3 due day before
2025-01-31	Lab			In-class Quiz #3 due in lab
2025-02-04	Lecture		Midterm Review #1	
2025-02-07	Lab			Midterm Exam #1 due in lab
2025-02-11	Lecture	Ch. 4.4-6: Synaptic Transmission; Ch. 15.3: Five Commonly Used Drugs; Ch. 18.1-2: Antipsychotic and Antidepressant Drugs	Lecture #4. Neurochemistry & Neuropharmacology	Online Quiz #4 due day before
2025-02-14	Lab			In-class Quiz #4 due in lab
2025-02-18	Lecture		COLLEGE CLOSED	Reading Break
2025-02-21	Lab		COLLEGE CLOSED	Reading Break

2025-02-25	Lecture	Ch. 3.1: General Layout of the Nervous System; Ch. 3.3: Neuroanatomical Techniques and Directions; Ch. 3.4: Anatomy of the Central Nervous System; Ch. 7.1: Sensory System Organization; Ch. 7.3: Somatosensory System; Ch. 8.2: Sensorimotor Association Cortex; Ch. 8.4: Primary Motor Cortex; Ch. 9.2: Postnatal Cerebral Development; Ch. 14.5: Four Areas of the Brain Involved in Sleep; Ch. 15.5: Early Biopsychological Theories of Addiction; Ch. 17.1-4: Biopsychology of Emotion	Lecture #5. PNS & Brainstem	Online Quiz #5 due day before
2025-02-28	Lab			In-class Quiz #5 due in lab
2025-03-04	Lecture	Ch. 3.1: General Layout of the Nervous System; Ch. 3.3: Neuroanatomical Techniques and Directions; Ch. 3.4: Anatomy of the Central Nervous System; Ch. 7.1: Sensory System Organization; Ch. 7.3: Somatosensory System; Ch. 8.2: Sensorimotor Association Cortex; Ch. 8.4: Primary Motor Cortex; Ch. 9.2: Postnatal Cerebral Development; Ch. 14.5: Four Areas of the Brain Involved in Sleep; Ch. 15.5: Early Biopsychological Theories of Addiction; Ch. 17.1-4: Biopsychology of Emotion	Lecture #6. Forebrain	Online Quiz #6 due day before
2025-03-07	Lab			In-class Quiz #6 due in lab
2025-03-11	Lecture		Midterm Review #2	
2025-03-14	Lab			Midterm Exam #2 due in lab
2025-03-18	Lecture	Ch. 16: Lateralization, Language, and the Split Brain; Ch. 17.4: Lateralization of Emotion	Lecture #7. Lateralization	Online Quiz #7 due day before
2025-03-21	Lab			In-class Quiz #7 due in lab
2025-03-25	Lecture	Ch. 6.3: From Retina to Primary Visual Cortex; Ch. 6.4: Seeing Edges; Ch. 6.6: Cortical Mechanisms of Vision and Conscious Awareness; Ch. 7.3: Somatosensory System; Ch. 7.5: Selective Attention; Ch. 11.6: Inferotemporal Cortex	Lecture #8. Perception	Online Quiz #8 due day before
2025-03-28	Lab			In-class Quiz #8 due in lab
2025-04-01	Lecture	Ch. 8.1-5: Sensorimotor System; Ch. 8.8: Central Sensorimotor Programs and Learning; Ch. 18.5: Tourette's Disorder	Lecture #9. Action	Online Quiz #9 due day before
2025-04-04	Lab			In-class Quiz #9 due in lab

2025-04-08	Lecture	Ch. 11: Learning, Memory, and Amnesia	Lecture #10. Memory	Online Quiz #10 due day before
2025-04-11	Lab			Midterm Exam #3 due in lab

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](#).

<https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

COMPONENT	WEIGHT PER ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS	TOTAL WEIGHT
Online Quizzes	0.5%	10	5.0%
In-class Quizzes	5.0%	9	45.0%
Midterm Exam #1	15.5%	1	15.5%
Midterm Exam #2	15.5%	1	15.5%
Midterm Exam #3	19.0%	1	19.0%
		TOTAL	100.0%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information.

<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Neuroscience is a relatively new field of study, but could its findings eventually provide an explanation for all of our behavior by reducing our thoughts and feelings down to the workings of the brain? This course familiarizes students with the current major findings and limitations associated with biopsychology - the study of how biological knowledge can be applied to psychological topics. In the process of trying to understand the biological mechanisms of the mind, topics will range from the microscopic (e.g., genetics, the electrophysiology of neurons, and neurochemistry) to the macroscopic (e.g., functional neuroanatomy and how the different parts of the nervous system interact).

ASSIGNED READINGS

All of the assigned readings for this course are from the course textbook. The Course Schedule above lists the specific chapters and subsections of the textbook that you are to read each week. You should complete these assigned readings prior to class so that you can fully contribute to discussions of the material. Concept notes, available in D2L Content, list the names of the concepts and their associated points (taken from the assigned readings) that you will need to know for quizzes and exams. However, it is recommended that you read all of the information in the assigned readings and not just rely upon

these concept notes since the organization, figures, and additional information contained within the course textbook will help improve your overall understanding of the concepts.

ONLINE QUIZZES

To help ensure you are familiar enough with the concepts from the assigned readings to be able to engage in in-depth discussions of them in class, before each lecture day you should complete in D2L the online quiz for that lecture. All quizzes will cover solely the material from the assigned readings that the concept notes contain. Each quiz will contain 20 questions about randomly chosen concept points on a given lecture topic. Each question on the quizzes will describe one of the concept points and ask for the name of that concept. The format of the quizzes will be matching-type questions, with each question listing alphabetically as answer options the names of all the concepts from the relevant lecture and you will be instructed to match the given concept description with its concept name. Half of the quiz questions will be *knowledge-type questions* which use for descriptions of the concepts the same wording as the points in the concept notes, while the other half of quiz questions will be *understanding-type questions* which reword these points usually in the form of a real-life scenario. You can access each online quiz through D2L Quizzes and take it an unlimited number of times up until its deadline (see the Course Schedule above), with only the highest score you achieve recorded as your mark for that quiz. In addition to being worth marks, the online quizzes will also help prepare you for in-class quizzes and exams since they cover the same content from the concept notes, although they use different scenarios for the understanding-type questions.

IN-CLASS QUIZZES

The format of the in-class quizzes will be the same as the online quizzes described above except that they will be in-class, closed-book (i.e., no notes allowed), and you will only be given a single attempt at each of them.

EXAMS

Exams will be the same format as the in-class quizzes (as described above) except that they will be longer (~50 questions) and cover multiple lecture topics. The content of the questions will cover equally the concepts from each lecture topic that the exam is designed to assess your knowledge/understanding of. You will only be given a single attempt at each exam.

DEADLINES

The Course Schedule above lists the specific dates for when the quizzes/exams/assignments are due. Failing to take an exam by its scheduled date will result in a score of zero for that exam. Exceptions may

be granted at the discretion of the instructor for demonstrated cases of hardship or extenuating circumstances (e.g., a medical emergency). In contrast to the hard deadlines for exams, the marks from quizzes not completed by their deadlines will automatically be waived and their weight distributed proportionately to the remaining course items.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

Camosun Psychology Club - Everyone interested in discussing psychological questions/problems is welcome! For further information, please contact the Student Society's Club's Coordinator, Tagg Kelt: keltt@camosun.ca

Journal of Camosun Psychology Research – Contact your Psychology Instructor to discover how to publish research in it. <https://cc.arcabc.ca/islandora/object/cc%3Apsycjournal>

American Psychological Association - The hub of our discipline. <https://www.apa.org>

Canadian Psychological Association - The Canadian hub of our discipline. <https://cpa.ca/>

Co-operative Education & Career Services - Learn about how to access a co-op experience for your career. <https://camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services/contact-co-operative-education-and-career>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards

Support Service	Website
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly

encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines: <https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's

Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.