

**School of Arts and Science**  
**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**  
**Camosun College**

**PSYCHOLOGY 215**  
**Biopsychology**

**Winter 2012**

**Instructor Information:**

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**Website:** D2L

**Intended Learning Objectives:**

1. Summarise the history of biopsychology, and the relationship of biopsychological theories and methods to the broader field of psychology.
2. Compare the most important research methods used in biopsychology.
3. Discuss the basic concepts, supporting the evidence for the interaction of evolution, genetics, and experience in the development of behaviour.
4. Label and summarize the basic structures and functions of the human nervous system.
5. Explain the processes involved in neural conduction and synaptic transmission.
6. Label images of the human visual system and explain basic visual processes in the central nervous system.
7. Discuss the mechanisms of perception, consciousness, awareness and attention.
8. Describe the functioning of the human sensorimotor system.
9. Summarise 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.
10. Discuss human learning, memory and amnesia as they relate to the human brain
11. Summarise human sexual development, human sexual dimorphism and the effects of hormones on human development and behaviour.
12. Describe the Reward System Model of drug addiction and a general model of effects of various drugs on neuronal function.
13. Discuss various disorders of cognition and emotion with regard to the human brain.
14. Summarise the effects of stress and emotions on human neurophysiology.
15. Discuss the neurophysiology of schizophrenia, depression and anxiety and attempts to treat these disorders.

**Preliminary Schedule:**

Date	Topic	Reading	Details
January 9, 2012	Introductions / D2L / Course Outline, Foundations of Biopsychology	Read Ch 1 and 2 before Jan 16	
January 11	Lab/ Seminar		
January 16	Intro to Biopsych / Mind-Brain / Evolution of human behaviour	Ch 3 before next lecture	
January 18	Lab/Seminar		
January 23	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Ch 4, 5 before next lecture	
January 25	Lab/Seminar		
January 30	Synaptic Transmission / Research Methods	Ch 6 before next lecture	
February 1	Lab / Seminar: EXAM 1 REVIEW		Exam Review
February 6	<b>EXAM 1</b>		<b>EXAM CH 1-5</b>
February 8	Lab/Seminar		
February 13	Visual System	Ch 7, 8 before next lecture	
February 15	Lab/Seminar		
Feb 16 and 17	READING BREAK		
February 20	Mechanisms of perception / Sensory motor system		
February 22	Lab/Seminar: Exam review		Exam Review
February 27	<b>EXAM 2</b>	Ch 9 before next lecture	<b>Exam CH 6, 7, 8</b>
February 29	Lab/Seminar		
March 5	Neural Development	Ch 10 before next lecture	
March 7	Lab/Seminar		
March 12	Brain Damage/ Neuropsychology	Ch 11 before next lecture	
March 14	Lab/Seminar		
March 19	Learning and Memory	Ch 15 before next lecture	
March 21	Lab/Seminar		
March 26	Drug Addiction & Brain Reward Circuits		
March 28	Lab/Seminar		Review session EXAM 3
April 2	<b>EXAM 3</b>	Ch 16 and 17.1-17.3 before next lecture	<b>Exam CH 9, 10, 11</b>
April 4	Lab/Seminar		
April 9	Language / Split Brain / Emotion	Ch 18 before next lecture	
April 11	Lab/Seminar		
April 16	Psychiatric Disorders / Review		
<b>TBA</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		<b>CH 15, 16, 18</b>

### Course Structure:

Exam 1:	25%
Exam 2:	25%
Exam 3:	25%
Final Exam:	25%

Each exam will be non-cumulative.

### Grading Scheme:

Percentage	Grade	Description	GPA
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level for which credit is granted. D grades cannot be used a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

### **Temporary Grades**

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used by the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<b>Incomplete:</b> a temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<b>In Progress:</b> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrolment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course (for these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 <sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion).
CW	<b>Compulsory Withdrawal:</b> A temporary grade

	assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite or field placement.
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**Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course:**

Learning support and services for students: There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or at [www.camosun.ca](http://www.camosun.ca)

Student Conduct Policy: There is a Student Conduct policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the college website in the Policy Section.