

Psychology 120.3 Section 97 2023 Syllabus

Biological and Cognitive Bases of Psychology CRN 83898 PSY 120 97

*Course description*

This course is designed to familiarize you with the body of knowledge, scientific theory, and research related to the major of psychology. The course focuses on the study of behaviour dealing with the essential problems of psychology, the methods of investigation, and the advances that have been made in the neurosciences. Because many students taking this course are pursuing a career in the health sciences, the web articles and films studied will be drawn from those sources.

Wednesday 9:00am to 12:00pm Sep 06, 2023 - Dec 06, 2023

Instructor's name, office hours and contact information

Br. Kurt Van Kuren OSB, 1:00 to 3:00 Wednesday afternoons, or by appointment.

Email address: kuv753@usask.ca

*Instructor's response time*

Emails and forum queries will be answered within 24 hours.

Required resources: readings/textbooks

All readings will come from the Internet; the required textbook is:

Psychology Canadian Edition 6th Edition

978-1-319-46977-1

The text can be purchased used. If the text is older, purchase only the Canadian Fifth Edition. For example, from a previous student in the course:

Psy 120.3 Loose Leaf Edition with 6 month access to Launch Pad.

The text can also be purchased as an ebook from Worth Publishers.

*Learning outcomes*

Understand the various types of research methods used by psychologists.

Become familiar with the major content areas in neuroscience and the scientific theory and research relating to them

Students are expected to master the course material in the form of multiple choice questions, short and long essay questions, and web article assignments (done in groups, and submitted to the course forum). Even more importantly, students will be expected to memorize and utilize course information in the American Psychological Association (APA) format of Author, Year, Information.

### *Lectures and Group Work: In-Class and Online*

All lectures will be available from my website <http://www.geekopolis.ca>, as well as live lectures using WebEx or Zoom.

In class group work or online use of the PAWS forum is essential in this class. Because so much work must now be done online, greater emphasis and grading will be placed on your contribution to your group's work. The forum can also be accessed through the PAWS app on your smartphone.

### *Evaluation components: In-Class and Online Exams*

Multiple Choice answers for midterms and the final are graded objectively. Short and Long Essays are graded according to how closely a student has followed the APA-style directives set out during iStudyHall.

A common exam will be used for students in class; each online student will receive a unique exam from a database of exam questions. The in-class exam for a Midterm will be worth 60 marks, with a time limit of 90 minutes. The online exam for a Midterm will be worth 60 marks, with a time limit of 120 minutes. Note: in order to write an online exam, you must be registered as an online student.

A standard format is used for all exams: 35 multiple choice items; 5 memory items directly from selected pages in the textbook; 10 marks for 2 multiple choice questions; 10 marks for 1 long essay question. The final merely multiplies this format by two.

### *Weighting of Exams*

Midterm One 15%

Midterm Two 15%

Midterm Three 15%

Final Exam 45%

Web Assignments 10%

### *Instructions for submitting online assignments, including the policy for late assignments.*

It is in your best interests to finish the web article assignments before the midterm where that information will be required; otherwise, all web articles will be marked one day after the final exam. The web article grades will be fitted statistically into the final grade by standardization.

One of the unique features of this course is that **rewrites of midterm examinations are allowed**. In order to use this feature, you must have a strategy session with me before the rewrite, where we will go over your strengths and weaknesses in exam preparation. You must accept the grade of the rewrite as your score for that particular exam.

### *Criteria That Must Be Met to Pass, including Attendance*

Students are expected to attend lectures and class discussions and to complete all written and online assignments and examinations. I will be taking attendance during the second half of the class, when you are expected to do group work. If you cannot be present at this time, please email me beforehand. I will also be monitoring smart phone usage.

The midterms and the final must be completed in order to pass the course. Completed web articles are necessary for a good grade.

Grading is on a percentage system; you will need to attain a grade of 50% to pass. Note that I will not 'fix' your grade if you receive a 48 or 49; since all scores come from raw grades, that is what you will receive as your final. The fitting of the web articles to your final grade happens after this calculation, not before.

University regulations concerning grading and examinations are at <https://students.usask.ca/academics/exams.php>

Please email me if you must be absent to tell me the reason. Note that you must contact your instructor within three days if you miss a final exam due to serious illness or domestic affliction. You must supply proof if you hope to write a deferred exam during the period set aside for that (usually in February or June).

### *Midterm and Final Examination Scheduling*

Midterm and final examinations must be written on the date and in the location scheduled.

Final examinations may be scheduled at any time during the examination period for your term

Students should therefore avoid making prior travel, employment, or other commitments for this period. If a student is unable to write an exam through no fault of his or her own for medical or other valid reasons, documentation must be provided and an opportunity to write the missed exam may be given. Students are encouraged to review all examination policies and procedures:

<http://students.usask.ca/academics/exams.php>

### *Trigger Topics and Informed Consent*

Because we will be discussing some of the most distressful behaviour and situations in which humans can find themselves, a warning for trigger topics is given here. If you cannot watch a particular film because it contains disturbing content, you will still need to finish the assignment on that film, as that information is necessary for the long essays on all four exams.

### *Disability Services for Students (DSS)*

Students who have disabilities (learning, medical, physical, or mental health) are strongly encouraged to register with Disability Services for Students (DSS) if they have not already done so. Students who suspect they may have disabilities should contact DSS for advice and referrals. In order to access DSS programs and supports, students must follow DSS policy and procedures. For more information, check <http://students.usask.ca/health/centres/disability-services-for-students.php> or contact DSS at 966-7273 or [dss@usask.ca](mailto:dss@usask.ca).

Students registered with DSS may request alternative arrangements for mid-term and final examinations. Students must arrange such accommodations through DSS by the stated deadlines. Instructors shall provide the examinations for students who are being accommodated by the deadlines established by DSS.

### Plagiarism / Academic Honesty

You are plagiarizing if you present the words or thoughts of someone else as if they were your own — exceptions are proverbial sayings or common knowledge — or if you submit without approval of the instructor any work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course.

Avoid charges of plagiarizing by acknowledging your sources in the essay and including them in the list of works cited. When quoting, make sure that all words and phrases from the source are in quotation marks. When paraphrasing, acknowledge the source of the idea but rewrite in your own language.

Plagiarism, whether from the web, from other students, or from published sources, is a serious academic offense. Acts of plagiarism will have consequences, depending on the nature of the offense. Less serious instances may be handled by instructors. Instructors may also report more serious offenses to the Dean, to be investigated by a College committee. Penalties can range from a "0" on an essay to a reduced mark for the course to expulsion from the University. Records of penalties assessed by the College committee are kept on file by the University Registrar; penalties become more severe for subsequent offences. For more information on plagiarism, see:

<http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/forms/IntegrityDefined.pdf>  
<http://policies.usask.ca/documents/GuidelinesForAcademicConduct.php#honesty> and  
<http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/>.

The St. Peter's College campus is situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respects to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

### *Weekly Schedule for Lectures and Exams*

Date Lecture Topics Assignments Notes

Sept 6 Methods in Psychology Dybbuk Box Selected Scenes can be found on Web

Sept 13 Neuroscience and Behaviour 1 Web Article One Group Work

Sept 20 Neuroscience & Behaviour 2 Web Article Two iStudy Hall Group Work

Sept 27 Midterm One Movie: Limitless Selected Scenes can be found on Web

Oct 4 Sensation & Perception Web Article Three Group Work

Oct 11 Consciousness 1 Web Article Four Group Work

Oct 18 Consciousness 2 iStudy Hall

Oct 25 Midterm Two Movie: Memento Selected Scenes can be found on Web

Nov 1 Memory Web Article Five Group Work

Nov 8 Learning Web Article Six Group Work

Nov 15 Reading Week

Nov 22 Emotion

Nov 29 Motivation iStudy Hall

Dec 6 Midterm Three