



Course Outline

PSYC3051

Physiological Psychology

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T2, 2020

1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor /Lecturer	Prof. Simon Killcross	s.killcross@unsw.edu.au	By appointment Mathews 1609	Email
Lecturer	Prof. Gavan McNally	g.mcnally@unsw.edu.au	By appointment Mathews 512	Email
Lecturer	Prof. Fred Westbrook	f.westbrook@unsw.edu.au	By appointment Mathews 615	Email
Lecturer	Dr. Kelly Clemens	k.clemens@unsw.edu.au	By appointment Mathews 608	Email
Tutor	Dana Leidl	d.leidl@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Email
Tutor	Kirsten Abbott	kirsten.abbott@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Email

2. Course information

Units of credit:	6
Pre-requisite(s):	PSYC2001, PSYC2081
Teaching times and locations:	PSYC3051 Timetable

2.1 Course summary

This course provides an overview of the neuroscience of learning and memory. Emphasis is placed on contemporary theories and approaches including the role of interactions between environmental events, synapses and genes. Topics include: appetitive and aversive motivation in learning, behaviour and psychopathology; Pavlovian conditioning; instrumental conditioning; how goals are represented and how they drive behaviour; and the development of habitual and compulsive behaviours.

2.2 Course aims

The overall aim of this course is to provide students with an overview of elementary learning processes and their neurobiological substrates. Emphasis is placed on contemporary theories and approaches, including discussion of the role of molecular signalling cascades and neuronal coding in learning and memory, the role of neural systems in supporting behaviour, and examples of where changes in such systems are thought to underpin human mental disorders. The aim of the practical component of the course is to provide experience of various aspects of research in physiological psychology. As such, a component of the course will involve recorded examples of experimentation on animal subjects (rats).

2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments



3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

This course provides an advanced treatment of the neuroscience of learning, memory, and motivation. It follows on, and assumes knowledge, from PSYC2081 Learning and Physiological Psychology. This course is complementary to PSYC3241 Psychobiology of Memory and Motivation in the sense that both courses provide an advanced perspective on issues in biological psychology.

Online demonstrations: The primary goal of laboratory demonstration component of the course is to provide experience in various aspects of research in physiological psychology. In current circumstances, this will involve demonstration videos of various forms of appetitive learning in rats. It is imperative that you contact your lecturer as soon as possible if obligations of any kind prevent you from taking part in these activities. Mini-quizzes will form part of these online demonstration packs.

Mini quizzes: are released 9am Monday in weeks 4, 5, 7, 8, & 9, together with their associated demonstration packs or online lesson. There are journal article readings that accompany each of the demonstration packs. These are available through the Moodle website from Week 1. As part of each demonstration pack and the online ethics class you are required to read these articles and a short 10-question mini-quiz will be incorporated into the demonstration pack or online ethics class, testing knowledge from these papers and the associated online activities. You may attempt each quiz as many times as you like, Quiz questions will remain available for revision purposes. These mini-quizzes are formative only (so carry no marks), but are designed to give you an idea of the questions that may be asked in the final exam. When, how, and if you choose to complete them is up to you. There will be no formal assessment of your performance in this task – it is entirely to allow you to judge your own performance in, and understanding of, the course at this time, and to help you to prepare for the final examination.

3.2 Expectations of students

It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or

4. Course schedule and structure

Each week this course typically consists of 2 hours of lecture material, 1-2 hours of tutorials practicals, and 1-2 hours of online activities. Students are expected to take an additional 7 hours each week of self-determined study to complete assessments, readings, and exam preparation.

Week	Online recorded lecture topics (recommended order, but can be taken in any order)	Tutorial topics	Online activities	Self-determined activities
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Week 1

01/06/2020

Week 7 Neural circuits of appetitive and aversive Research proposal and poster
13/07/2020 motivation (McNally) presentation 2a
FACE-to-

towards your final mark provided you present an original idea to the tutorial group (i.e. it is pass/fail with a fixed award of 5%). The presentations in week 7 or 8 will be worth 10% of your final mark, based on quality. Electronic copies of your final poster must be submitted at the end of week 10 (07/08/20) following the standard procedure. These electronic submissions will be checked by

5.4. Feedback on assessment

Feedback on all pieces of assessment in this course will be provided in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment	When	Who	Where	How
Brief description of future experiments	Within 10 days of due date	Tutor	Online	Moodle
Research proposal presentation and poster	Within 10 days of due date	Tutor	F2F online via collaborate	Verbal
Mini-quizzes	As taken	Tutor	Online	Moodle
Final exam	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. Academic integrity , referencing and plagiarism

The APA (6th edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately:

[APA 6th edition](#) .

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage.¹ At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and plagiarism can be located at:

- x The Current Students site <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>, and
- x The ELISE training site <http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/presenting>

The Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>.

¹ International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.

7. Readings and resources

Textbook (recommended)

You may find the textbooks listed below helpful. You are not required to purchase either of these ones

9. Additional support for students

- x The Current Students Gateway: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/>
- x Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- x Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- x Disability Support Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability-services>