



**Brescia University College**  
**LONDON CANADA**

**Psychology 2221b, section 530**  
**Introduction to the Biological Basis of Behaviour**

**Dr. Shelley Cross-Mellor**  
**2019-2020**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to the principles of evolutionary biology, genetics, and physiology in relation to behaviour. This course is intended as an introduction to the biological basis of behaviour for students who do not have a background in biology. The biological basis of major aspects of behaviour in humans, and other animals, will be discussed, including motor control, perception, sleep and waking cycles, hunger, reproduction, learning, memory, motivation, stress, and behavioural disorders.

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in a 1000 level Psychology course.

**Antirequisites:** Psychology 2220A/B.

*Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Shelley Cross-Mellor

**Office:** UH 356

**E-mail:** scrossmellor@gmail.com

**Office Hrs:** Thursdays 5:30-6:30pm and after class by appointment

**Time, Location of Class:** Fridays 8:30 – 11:30am; BR 302

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- a) To be able to explain the meaning of words in the biopsychology vocabulary (***Brescia Competencies: Communication, Inquiry and Analysis***)
- b) To describe and apply the major principles of biopsychology including
  - i. Behaviour is caused by brain activity
  - ii. Behaviour is determined by on-going events and previous experiences.
  - iii. Biopsychology is a way of studying behaviour, not a body of knowledge. Researchers

use specialized methods to examine the biology of behaviour. They interpret observations to draw conclusions.

***(Brescia Competencies: Communication, Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving)***

- c) Use judgement to identify the most important information and integrate elements in biopsychology ***(Brescia Competencies: Communication, Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving)***
- d) Actively participate in group discussions and in-class learning activities ***(Brescia Competencies: Communication, Self Awareness and Development)***

## TEXTBOOK

**Required:** Pinel, J. P. J. (2017). *Biopsychology, 10<sup>th</sup> edition*. Pearson.

## CLASS SCHEDULE - subject to change, see OWL and class for updates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Jan. 10	Introduction & What is Biopsychology?	Ch. 1
Jan. 17	The anatomy of the nervous system	Ch. 3
Jan. 24	Neural conduction and synaptic transmission	Ch. 4
<b>Jan. 31</b>	<b>Midterm #1 – in class</b>	<b>Chpts 1, 3 &amp; 4</b>
Feb. 7	Research methods of biopsychology	Ch. 5
Feb. 14	The Visual System & Perception	Ch. 6 & 7
Feb. 21	<i>Reading Week – no class</i>	
Feb. 28	Learning, memory & amnesia	Ch. 11
<b>Mar. 6</b>	<b>Midterm #2 – in class</b>	<b>Chpts 5, 6, 7, 11</b>
Mar. 13	Neuropsychological Diseases	Ch. 10
Mar. 20	Drug of Abuse and Addiction	Ch. 15

Mar. 27	Emotion, Stress & Health	Ch. 17
Apr. 3	Psychiatric Disorders	Ch. 18

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Topics will be covered in the order given above. *Approximate* lecture dates are listed so that you can keep up with the readings. It is best to read the assigned chapter briefly before class, and then return to the text and reread the material more carefully after we have discussed it. In class, I will discuss those parts of the chapter that I feel are the most important, most difficult, or the most interesting and may update and expand upon the topic. Classes will include lectures, video clips, films, demonstrations and activities to help further understand material. You are not responsible for chapters that do not appear on the class schedule.

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## CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

**In order to make the most of this learning experience for yourself and your fellow students, PLEASE**

- Do not use computers in class *for any reason*, except to take notes.
- Do not send or read e-mails/text messages/IM's during class time.
- Turn off cell phones.
- Refrain from speaking to a neighbour during class time (unless invited to do so by the instructor), especially if someone (either the instructor or a fellow class member) is speaking to the class.

These activities can be very distracting to your fellow students and to the instructor.

## EVALUATION & EXAM SCHEDULE

### Evaluation Summary:

<u>Course Component</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>
<b>Midterm #1</b>	Fri. Jan.31	30%
<b>Midterm #2</b>	Fri. Mar. 6	35%
<b>Final Exam</b>	TBA – April exam period	35%
<b>Bonus Assignment</b>	Apr. 3	Up to 3%

The non-cumulative tests and exam will be composed of multiple choice, and have a mixture of fill in the blanks, label the diagram and/or short answer questions.

**Test 1** is scheduled for January 31 in class. Questions will be based on material from Chapters 1, 3, and 4 and the corresponding lectures. Test 1 contributes 30% of your course grade.

**Test 2** is scheduled for March 6, in class. Questions will be based on material from Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 11 and the corresponding lectures. Test 2 contributes 35% of your course grade.

The **Final Exam** will be held during the April examination period (April 6-26) and will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. The Final Exam will be based on Chapters 10, 15, 17 and 18 and the corresponding lectures. The Final exam contributes 35% of your course grade.

The midterms and exam are closed book and no aids are allowed. There will be no re-grading of short answer type questions answered in pencil. Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. **Therefore, it is in your interest to avoid sitting near anyone you studied course material with.**

### **Bonus Assignment**

You may also earn up to 3 bonus percentage points by completing a bonus assignment. The assignment consists of writing a chapter summary for one chapter of the course text that we do not cover in class (students can select from one of the following chapters: 2, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, or 16). Your chapter summary should be no longer than 4 pages double spaced and will be graded based on creativity, content, organization, clarity, concision, and grammar/spelling. The last date for handing in this bonus assignment is April 3rd in class. Assignments that contain plagiarism will receive a grade of zero and additional penalties may be used (see policy section of this syllabus). Please note email submissions **will not** be accepted. Your instructor must receive a hard copy of the bonus assignment before the stated deadline.

For questions regarding missed tests or exams, see the academic policies section, attached, or consult the professor or an Academic Advisor.

### **COPYRIGHT**

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and any other components of the course materials are the intellectual property of the instructor.

Unauthorized reproduction through tape-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on any social media site, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may also be considered a Scholastic Offence, which may lead to sanctions.

Further information on Scholastic Offences is available at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

## **2019-20 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

### **1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12).

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services ([http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10)).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

### Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form** to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

### Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf) ;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their **Academic Advisor** for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be viewed at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12)

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to the [Registrar's website](http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/), <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

## 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory ([http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_68](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68) ).

## 4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

## **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed.

You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

## 7. SUPPORT

### Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

### Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia** (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html).

### Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.

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