

## Psychology 304 - Section 002 – Brain and Behaviour-2023/24

Second term

### **PREAMBLE**

Welcome to the second half of Brain and Behaviour! My intention here is to:

→ Inform you of what you'll be learning about this term

→ Highlight similarities and differences between the ways the course will be run in 2<sup>nd</sup> term vs last term

**Instructor:** Dr. Stan Floresco  
Office Phone: (604) 827-5313  
Email: [floresco@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:floresco@psych.ubc.ca)

- I respond to emails almost seven days a week, but please bear in mind that my email volume is very high. When contacting me, please use your UBC email, and please note which course you are in, i.e. PSYC304. In addition, *emails sent during normal-ish business hours (8 am -6 pm) are more likely to get responded to promptly*, as I don't check my email as often outside of those time, and your message might get pushed down the list in my inbox.

### **Teaching assistants:**

Daria Oleinichenko (same as last term)

Email: [oleinich@student.ubc.ca](mailto:oleinich@student.ubc.ca)

Shayden Schofield-Lewis (NEW this term)

Email: [ssl@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:ssl@psych.ubc.ca)

### **Website:** (same as last term)

**Canvas:** <https://canvas.ubc.ca>

Links to all lecture slides, messages, announcements, etc. will be posted here.

**Lectures:** On campus, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:50 am

**Room (\*\*different from last term):** IRC 6

**Zoom Q &A/Office Hour:** There will also be an optional, weekly, online Q&A session where you can ask me any questions about the lecture material or other class materials. These Q&A sessions will be recorded, if you cannot attend. During these sessions, I would be happy to go over certain slides “live” from the previous week's lecture if you have any question about the content.

**Class discussion forum:** Like last term, there will be a class discussion forum conducted via *Piazza*. Please sign up to this forum via the link on the Canvas site, as I am able to answer a lot of questions of course content this way.

### **TEXTBOOK:** Behavioral Neuroscience (10th Ed) by Breedlove and Watson

This textbook is **mandatory** for this term. A hard copy should be available at the UBC bookstore and is also available on Amazon. You can also rent/buy a virtual copy from this link:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/behavioral-neuroscience-s-marc-breedlove-v9780197616888>

## **COURSE CONTENT – Term 2**

The lectures will cover some material from the textbook, and some **not found in the text**. It is strongly recommended that the appropriate section of the textbook is read before or shortly after a lecture. Lectures are presented as Powerpoint presentations, and the slides will be available online in a PDF format prior to lectures.

As with last term, lectures will be held on campus and your attendance is expected. If you try to rely solely on the slides for studying, you will not be as successful. It is therefore essential that you attend lecture.

- **Lectures will not be recorded, but I am perfectly fine with you recording the audio of the lecture on your own devices.**

Most of the chapters will be covered over 2 lectures (with some topics receiving 3-4 lectures). Order of topics loosely correspond to order presented in the textbook, with some exceptions.

### **TENTATIVE LECTURE TOPICS:**

- 1) Sex (Chapter 12)
- 2) Homeostasis: Active Regulation of Internal States – Feeding (Chapter 13)

**First Midterm Exam (term 2) will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup>**

- 3) Biological Rhythms, Sleep and Dreaming (Chapter 14)
- 4) Emotions, Aggression and Stress (Chapter 15)

**Second Midterm Exam (term 2) will be held on February 29<sup>th</sup>**

- 5) Learning and Memory (Chapter 17) **\*NOTE chapter order change**
- 6) Psychopathology: Biological bases of Behavioral Disorders (Chapter 16)
- 7) Reward, Psychopharmacology, Drug Addiction (Chapter 4, pgs. 122-143)

## **Other Key Course Information**

**Q&A (optional):** Every Wednesday, 2:30-3:30 pm via Zoom on Canvas, starting Jan 24<sup>th</sup>.

→ These sessions are intended to handle all the questions you'd normally ask in class, as well as any questions that might be broadly applicable to your classmates. If you have questions about the course content or course administration, please ask these during the Q&A sessions. Office hours are for personal/individual matters (see below). If for some reason you cannot make the Q&A session, please post your content questions on the discussion forum of the course website, and I will answer them during the Q&A session, which is recorded for you to watch later.

**Office hours:** If you would prefer one-on-one discussions about the course that you would rather not discuss in a group setting, please email me to schedule an appointment (again, emails during regular business hours are more likely to be answered promptly than those sent after 6 pm on Fridays). Most one-on-one discussions can be conducted over Zoom, but I can also make time for an in-person meeting after class if needed. **Also note that I am happy to answer relatively brief questions about course content over email as well.**

**TA office hours:** Both Daria and Shayden are available for Zoom office hours by appointment

**Note: whom should you book one-on-one office hours with?**

Please book office hours with your awesome TAs if:

- You would like to review one of your exams. When reviewing your exam, you are not allowed to take notes on, or photos of, the exam.
- You would like to discuss content from the course readings and/or study strategies.

Please book ***one-on-one*** office hours with Dr. Floresco if:

- You have an issue with course performance or progress.
- You would like to discuss psychology and neuroscience more generally.

Again, please note that questions about lecture content should be handled during the Q&A sessions, not during office hours. If you feel reluctant to speak up during the Q&A, which I totally understand, I encourage you to post your questions in the discussion forum of our Canvas page and I'll answer them on the Q&A.

## **EVALUATIONS**

Your final mark in this course will be based on an average of your first term mark (50% of final grade) and the average of (3) examinations in second term (the other 50% of your final grade). Marks from the second term will be the average of the two midterm exams written during the class time, and one “final” exam written during the exam period at a time designated by UBC administration (you must be able to write at any time during the exam period). These will cover material from primarily from the lectures supplemented by information in the textbook.

Tentative date and duration of exams are as follows:

Midterm Exam 1 (term 2) (80 minutes) Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 (worth **15%** of the mark for the course)

Midterm Exam 2 (term 2) (80 minutes) Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (worth **15%** of the mark for the course)

Final Exam: TBA by Registrar’s office (worth **20%** of the mark for the course)

**Final Mark calculation: 1<sup>st</sup> term average (50%) = 2<sup>nd</sup> term average (50%).**

### **Notes on the exams:**

- ***Exam policies are similar to last term in that they are held on campus in our usual class, and you must be available to write the exam on campus at the appointed time. Exams can NOT be administered remotely.*** Please schedule ahead accordingly. (Accommodations with the Centre for Accessibility will of course be honored.)
- Exams will be composed of multiple choice questions and short-answer “essay” type questions.
- For exams, you will be responsible for all material covered in the designated chapters in the textbook, as well as the lecture material. A good proportion of the lecture material is covered in the textbook, **but some is not**. You will be tested on all the material *related to what is covered in the lectures*.
- Exams are not cumulative, but the later material in the course clearly builds upon the earlier material.
- Like last term, **exams are “closed book”, with no referring to your notes.**
- You will not be able to write an exam if 1) you are more than 30 minutes late, or 2) another student has already submitted their exam and left the exam room—whichever occurs first.
- If you are sick, do not come to the exam. Instead, contact me about accommodations (see subsequent section).
- Grade adjustments are very uncommon but if a dispute between TA and student occurs for grading, Dr. Floresco will regrade that component of your exam—this can result in the same grade, an increase, or a decrease, depending on Dr. Floresco’s judgement of your answer. Any grading disputes must be handled within 2 weeks of exam grades being released.
- Grades will be based on the weighted average of your first term mark and the three exams written in the second term (described above). Marks **may** be scaled or adjusted.
- HSP credit will be accepted for participation in 2<sup>nd</sup> term, to a maximum of 3% for the course.

## **CONSESSION/ILLNESS ISSUES AND POLICIES:**

- **If you are sick, it is important that you stay home – no matter what you think you may be sick with (e.g. cold, flu, other illness).**
- If you must miss a midterm exam due to acute illness, you do not need to supply me with a medical note. Note that this policy does not apply to exams during the final exam period (for “final” exams, see below).
- ***If you are accommodated for missing a midterm exam***, the general policy will be that you should write the exam within one week of the original test date. However, ***we will handle this on a case-by-case basis***, depending on the nature of the concession (eg, positive Covid test vs other illness etc). It is possible that you may make-up the exam in-person, or have your final mark made up of the weighted average of your other exam.
- If you have an unavoidable hardship is not an acute illness that will spontaneously resolve, then you may have to present me with details of such hardship.
- **In any case, you must contact me within 48 hours of the exam if you need accommodation for the midterm exam.** If at all possible, please contact me about accommodations before the exam, not after.
- Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and **must discuss their commitments with me by January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024** if they wish to be considered for accommodation.
- Being accommodated for missing a midterm exam is at my sole discretion. Similarly, I may send you to your faculty Academic Advising if I feel ill-equipped to judge the nature of your hardship, as Advising has much more experience in the matter.
- **FINAL EXAM:** If you miss the “final” exam (in April), you must contact your Faculty Academic Advising Office to address the issue—note that they will probably require unambiguous medical (or other) documentation.

**All other policies are the same as last term.**