



Psychology 3525A – Hormones and Behaviour - Fall 2014 Department of Psychology

Location:

MWF, 3:00-3:50 pm, B650
Course Dropbox: adjacent to C866

Instructor Information:

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Graduate Teaching Assistant:

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Course Description:

This course is designed to expand on the material covered at the second year level by providing an in-depth analysis of current theories and research in the field of behavioural endocrinology; the study of the relationship between hormones and behaviour. In this course we will explore the proximate mechanisms via which hormones and the endocrine organs that produce them, exert actions on the structure and function of the **mammalian** central nervous system and, thus, on behaviour. A wide range of topics will be covered including development, reproduction, parental behaviour, feeding and drinking, biological rhythms, and stress to name a few. In each case, lectures and textbook readings will cover the anatomy and physiology of each of the neural/hormonal systems and the patterns of behaviour exhibited by the whole animal. Students should note that the sociology of endocrine disorders, current legal policies regarding exogenous hormone therapy, counselling for persons with endocrine disorders or those seeking exogenous hormone therapy, and complementary and alternative medicine, are topics that will not be emphasised in this course.

Course Prerequisites and Background Preparation:

The required prerequisites for this course are Neuroscience 2600 and one other 2000-level course (3.0 credit hours), in Psychology or Neuroscience. Students must have completed NEUR2600 or a close equivalent prior to taking this course. Students who do not have the prerequisites (e.g., verified transfer credits) may be deregistered without warning. In ***exceptional circumstances***, a prerequisite waiver will be considered for students who have adequate equivalent background. If you are considering requesting a waiver, please speak to me in class prior to the end of the add/drop period. Submitting a request for a waiver does not guarantee that you will receive one; each case will be evaluated individually, and you will have to provide supporting documentation for prior courses not taken at the U of L. Regardless of specific prerequisites, all students must have a working knowledge of basic neurochemistry, neuroanatomy, physiological psychology, and the scientific approach to understanding behaviour.

Required Texts:

- Nelson, R.J. (2011). *An Introduction to Behavioral Endocrinology, Fourth Edition*. Sunderland MA: Sinauer.
- Northey, M., & Timney, B. (2012). *Making sense in psychology: A student's guide to research and writing*. Don Mills ON: Oxford University Press.

Course Rules and Regulations:

All students are expected to have read assigned textbook materials in advance of each class. Though attendance is not mandatory, you are responsible for any material that is presented in class, whether or not you choose to attend. Cell phones **MUST** be turned off during the lecture and texting is absolutely prohibited. Students are permitted laptops or tablets for the sole purpose of taking notes or engaging in on-task activities. Unless you are a student with special needs (see below), there is no reason to be doing anything else with your device during the lecture. Likewise, there is no reason for conducting a social chit-chat session. In addition, everyone (including me), is a bit late every now and then or needs to leave a bit early. Once class is in session you are not welcome to disrupt us with your late arrival or early departure. These behaviours are rude, disrespectful, and disruptive to students and professors alike. As per the University Calendar, Part 4, Section 5.h.1.: "*When a student disrupts instructional activities, the instructor may exclude the student immediately from instructional space and/or from future scheduled instructional meetings of that course pending further actions by the Dean.*", I will act in accordance with policy. All students are expected to be familiar with the entirety of Part 4 of the current University of Lethbridge Calendar that governs Academic Regulations, Policies, and Program Requirements (<https://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-calendar/2014-15>).

Copyright, Moodle, and Intellectual Property:

With the exception of information that is freely available on the internet, all course information should be treated as copyright protected. You are free to download and print a **SINGLE** copy of any materials posted for your use within Moodle, and you are free to take your own notes in class and from the textbook (of course!). You are *not* permitted to distribute the information in any form to persons not registered in this course. Once the information is in your hands, you are responsible for what you do with it and I will not be held responsible for students who choose to violate the law. The Students' Union maintains a Note Bank for students to turn in their class notes at the end of semester. Stop and think before you turn in your "notes". You are legally responsible for what you submit. Audio or video recording of lectures or any other in-class presentations or activities is ***strictly prohibited***. Doing so violates intellectual property rights and the privacy of your classmates who have not consented to have their voice/questions recorded.

Students with Special Needs:

If you have a documented condition that prevents you from fully participating in this course, including evaluation procedures, it is your responsibility to contact me regarding your individual situation. Given the number of different assignments, it is to your advantage to contact me early in the semester. Please note that no accommodations will be given without official notification from the Accommodated Learning Centre (<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/>).

Course Information Online:

Moodle: All course information will be available from the Moodle LMS system. Following each lecture, a brief summary will be posted so that students can keep track of missed material. **Students should note that these summaries do not include complete files of lecture slides.** Students will be able to track their standing in the course by accessing the Grade Utility on Moodle.

Email: Other than posts to Moodle, my primary method of communicating with you for general notices and points of interest to supplement course material will be via in-class announcements or by email to the class listserv. Please check your U of L email account on a regular basis, or have that account forwarded to your preferred provider. Please do your best to remember to do regular housekeeping of your U of L account so that you do not miss important notices due to a full mailbox. Any requests for information pertaining to matters of a confidential nature (e.g., your particular standing in the course), or graded work (i.e., presentation slides), must be sent from your U of L account and you must include your ID# and your full name as it appears on your registration.

NB: If your email to me concerns questions about course information that has been made available in class, has been posted to Moodle, is given within this syllabus, or you are disrespectful to me in your wording, I will not reply.

Course Requirements:

(1) Exams (50% total). There will be three (3) in-class exams given throughout the semester, each of which will account equally towards 50% of your final grade. Exams will be based on both lecture content and readings. Exam format will consist of short-answer questions, short definitions, and multiple-choice/fill-in-the blank questions. Each exam is non-cumulative.

Exam 1: Friday, October 10

Exam 2: Wednesday, November 13

Exam 3: Wednesday, December 3

Penalty: If you fail to write an exam on the scheduled date you will receive 0%.

(2) Presentation (15%). Students will be responsible for giving a short, conference-length presentation in groups of two or three depending on enrollment. Each group/pair will be given a maximum of 15 minutes for their presentation (10 minutes for presentation plus 3 minutes for a question period, with length of time strictly enforced). The presentation is worth 15% of your final grade; 7.5% accorded to the group (i.e., each member will receive the same grade), and 7.5% accorded to your individual contribution. Regardless of group membership, all students are responsible for ensuring that the in-class presentation represents a cohesive group effort in both preparation and delivery. Details of this assignment will be posted on Moodle and will be discussed in class.

Penalty: Failure to actively engage with your group, to assist in the preparation of the presentation, or to deliver your part of the in-class presentation will result in a grade of 0 for 15% of your final grade. Should this situation arise, the group mark for the remaining members will be calculated without consideration of your performance.

NB: Scheduling Presentations and Assigning Groups. Though not a graded component of the course, every student is required to submit a hardcopy of the Presentation Scheduling Worksheet **NO LATER than 4:00 pm on Friday, September 12**. The purpose of asking you to complete the worksheet is to help me to form groups that consist of students who share topic interest, approach, level of analysis, and compatible schedules. Instructions for the worksheet (including templates) will be posted to Moodle. **No electronic submissions of the Scheduling Worksheet will be accepted.** Class on **Monday, September 15** will be devoted to a workshop in which students will be assigned to presentation groups/topics and dates. All registered students are expected to attend.

(3) Critical Abstract Assignment (15%). Each student is required to submit a written assignment consisting of a one-page, critical abstract of each of three (3) pieces of primary research published in reputable, peer-reviewed journals. Each abstract will account for 5% of your final grade. Though you are encouraged to explore any topic in the area of behavioural endocrinology, all three articles must represent a cohesive topic and must be different than the topic you choose for your journal assignment (see below). You may choose the same topic as your presentation; however, you cannot work as a group for this assignment. Each student must choose their own articles and turn in their own original writing. Details of assignment requirements will be posted on Moodle and will be discussed in class. **This assignment is due NO LATER than Monday, October 27, 2014. Assignments turned in to the dropbox after 4:00 pm and incomplete assignments will be considered late submissions.** There will be no opportunity to revise this assignment for a higher grade after this deadline; however, all students have the option of turning in a draft of one (1) abstract, formatted as per the assignment requirements, on or before **Monday, October 20, 2014 by 4:00 pm** to receive written feedback. This is completely voluntary and will have no bearing on the mark for your final assignment.

Penalty: If you fail to turn in the assignment on time, or you turn in an incomplete assignment, you will incur an automatic 25% deduction to your grade. Assignments turned in more than 24 hours late will receive an automatic grade of 0 for 15% of your final grade.

(4) Journal Assignment (20%). Each student is required to submit a written assignment consisting of an essay explaining a single, piece of primary research (target article) set into the context of the broader field. Though you are encouraged to explore any topic in the area of behavioural endocrinology, you must choose a different topic than that of your presentation and critical abstract assignment. Each student must choose his or her own target article and turn in her or his own, original writing. Details of this assignment will be posted on Moodle and will be discussed in class. Following initial grading, all students will be given the option to submit a revised paper for a higher grade.

First submissions of this assignment are due NO LATER than Monday, November 10, 2014 at 4:00 pm. Assignments turned in to the dropbox after 4:00 pm and incomplete assignments will be considered late submissions.

Penalty: If you fail to turn in your assignment by the first submission deadline you will incur an automatic 25% deduction to your mark and you forfeit your right to turn in a revised final submission. First submissions turned in more than 24 hours late will receive an automatic grade of 0 for 20% of your final grade.

Policy for Re-scheduling of Exams and Penalties for Late Submissions: With the exception of extreme extenuating circumstances all students are expected to write the exams on the scheduled dates, to turn in assignments on time, and to deliver their presentations on the scheduled date. Supporting documentation must be provided for any request to re-schedule your presentation, extend the due date for assignments or to write a make-up exam. Should you find yourself in an extreme situation, please contact me ASAP via email so that I may assist you to access university resources. Otherwise, penalties will be levied as described above. There will be no opportunity to re-weight course components or to complete extra work to offset missed exams, missed presentations, late assignments, or poor performance.

A Note on Plagiarism: Written assignments and presentation material will be graded under the assumption that students have read and understood the contents of Northey and Timney (2012); specifically here, Chapter 2 - *Ethical Issues in Research and Writing*. All assignments must be in your own words. Paraphrasing someone else's words or ideas, even if you reference those words, is plagiarism. Stringing together a set of phrases with direct quotes is not writing in your own words. All forms of plagiarism constitute a serious academic offense. Any case of suspected plagiarism will

be dealt with severely, including the imposition of the maximum penalties allowable. The onus is on you to understand what constitutes plagiarism and to take all steps to avoid it. It is also an academic offence to submit substantially similar work to two different courses for credit (see Part 4, Section 5 of the U of L Calendar regarding Academic Offenses).

Grading Scheme:

Letter grades will be assigned to all assignments and final course percentages according to the following scale:

A+ ≥ 90	B+ 77 - < 80	C+ 67 - < 70	D+ 55 - < 60
A 85 - < 90	B 73 - < 77	C 63 - < 67	D 50 - < 55
A- 80 - < 85	B- 70 - < 73	C- 60 - < 63	F < 50