

# PSY260H1 S

## Introduction to Learning and Plasticity

### Summer 2024 Syllabus

#### Course Meetings

##### PSY260H1 S

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC0101	Monday, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	In Person: SS 1073
	Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	In Person: SS 1073

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

#### Course Contacts

**Instructor:** Noelia Calvo

**Email:** [noelia.calvo@utoronto.ca](mailto:noelia.calvo@utoronto.ca)

**Office Hours and Location:** Office Hours by appointment: <https://calendly.com/noelia-calvo>

#### Course Overview

Concepts, theories, and applications of classical and contemporary learning theories, including classical and operant conditioning. Current theories of the physiological and anatomical basis of learning and memory, including synaptic plasticity, the role of the hippocampus, amygdala, frontal cortex and other brain regions. Theories will be related to a practical understanding and applications such as drug addiction, phobias and other disorders.

This course will provide strong background in the basics of learning. We will examine how behaviour and the brain change with experience in both humans and animals. Students will become familiar with theories and scientific data from the cognitive, clinical and neuroscientific perspective. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, problem solving and discussion of the primary literature in the field.

#### Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe basic learning principles
- Critically assess the learning principles involved in novel situations
- Link learning principles with specific psychological disorders
- Connect learning principles to your own life

- Explain how certain types of experiences change the brain

**Prerequisites:** PSY100H1/PSY100Y5/PSYA01H3/COG250Y1

**Corequisites:** None

**Exclusions:** PSYB38H3

**Recommended Preparation:** None

**Credit Value:** 0.5

## Course Materials

Learning & Memory: From Brain to Behavior, 4th Edition; Gluck MA, Mercado E, and Myers CE (2020) Worth Publishers.

Note: the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of 'Learning and Memory: From Brain to Behaviour' is available on Robarts course reserve and at the UofT Bookstore. There's an e-text version, which has affordable 120-day and 180-day rental options for students.

## Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Test 1	20%		2024-07-17
Writing	15%		2024-07-24,2024-07-29,2024-07-31
Test 2	20%		2024-08-07
Participation (in class activities)	15%		2024-07-08,2024-07-15,2024-07-22
In-Person Final Exam	30%		Final Exam Period

## Late Assessment Submissions Policy

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading & Assignments
1	July 3	Course introduction, syllabus Psychology of Learning and memory	--
1	July 8	The neuroscience of learning and memory	Chapter 2 In class activity 1

			5%
2	July 10	Non-associative learning	Chapter 3
			Chapter 4
2	July 15	Classical conditioning	In class activity 2 5%
3	July 17	Test 1 Operant Conditioning	Chapter 5
			Chapter 7
3	July 22	Episodic and semantic memory	In class activity 3 5%
4	July 24	Skill memory Writing part 1--2.5%	Chapter 8
4	July 29	Cognitive neuroscience of emotional memory (Video recording) Writing part 2--2.5%	Chapter 10
5	July 31	Cognitive neuroscience of emotional memory (Video recording) Writing part 3 --2.5%	Chapter 10
5	August 5	Civic holiday - University closed, no classes	
		Test 2	Chapter 12
6	August 7	Learning and memory across the lifespan	
6	August 12	Review	
7	Final exam period	Final exam	

## Policies & Statements

### Plagiarism Detection Tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

### Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

### Accommodation for Personal Reasons

There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me or to an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can help you to decide if you want to request an extension or other forms of academic consideration. They may be able to email your instructors directly to provide a College Registrar's letter of support and connect you with other helpful resources on campus.

### Late/Missed Assignments

If a student misses a deadline for an assignment or assessment for any reason (illness, family situation, etc.), a documentation is required to support their request for academic consideration (e.g., extension, make-up test, re-weighting). The following are recognized forms of documentation:

- Absence declaration via ACORN. Students can only use the ACORN tool ONCE per semester in total across all courses. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>.
- U of T Verification of Illness or Injury Form (VOI). The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>.

- College Registrar's letter.
- Letter of Academic Accommodation from Accessibility Services. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Students should still declare their absence/submit their documentation to their TA within one week of missing a term test/writing assignment.

For the term tests, if the severity of the illness warrants the absence, the weight will be transferred to the final exam. Assignments will not be accepted more than 4 days after the due date. The weight of the written assignment will not be transferred to the final exam. If a student is absent for a prolonged period of time, it is recommended they discuss their situation with their College Registrar.

### **Academic Integrity**

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters \(https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019\)](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources. For example, to learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see [A&S Student Academic Integrity \(https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity\)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity) and the [University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity \(https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca\)](https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca).

### **Mental Health and Well-being**

As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation, financial concerns, family worries and so forth. These factors may affect your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate fully in daily activities. Everyone feels stressed now and then – it is a normal part of university life. Some days are better than others, and there is no wrong time to reach out. There are resources for every situation and every level of stress.

There are many helpful resources available through your College Registrar or through Student Life (<http://studentlife.utoronto.ca> and <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/feeling-distressed>). An important part of the University experience is learning how and when to ask for help. Please take the time to inform yourself of available resources.

### **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of

mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

### **Specific Medical Circumstances**

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

### **Religious Accommodations**

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

### **Quercus Info**

This Course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. New information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.

## **Additional Content**

### **Questions about Grading**

Any questions regarding a grade received for an item of work in this course should be brought to the attention of the TAs within two weeks of receipt of the graded work. For term tests, a TA will give the student a form to fill out, detailing where the marking error may have occurred. References to the textbook and/or lecture slides are also required for term tests. For the writing assignments, students must specify what parts of the rubric they believe were graded improperly, with evidence from their writing to support their complaints. If the student is not satisfied with the response of the TA, the student can submit an appeal letter to me. This letter must detail the item(s) in contention and why it has not been assessed accurately. A legitimate request will result in a re-grade of the entire work, which may result in a higher, lower, or identical grade.

### **Frequently asked questions**

- What is on the term test? Everything that was in lecture material (unless otherwise noted) or in the textbook.
- o Test 1: only on Chapters 1 - 4
- o Test 2: only on Chapters 5, 7, 8
- Communication during Tests: If for whatever reason, more information is required to be provided during an exam (typo, correction etc.) it will be provided through announcements, so please check periodically throughout the test OR turn on your email notifications for the course.
  - Are tests cumulative (does material from test 1 show up on test 2)?
- o No, they will only focus on material in those chapters.
- Is the final exam cumulative?
- o Yes. It will cover all material that was covered in lecture and all chapters that were assigned for reading in the textbook.
- What kind of questions will there be?

Term tests will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in, and/or short and long answer questions. Assessments will be based on lectures, and readings from the textbook.

### **List of Resources**

Student Life Programs and Services: <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca>

Academic Success Services: <http://www.asc.utoronto.ca>

Health & Wellness Centre: <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc>

Counselling and Psychological Services: <http://www.caps.utoronto.ca/main.htm>

Resources for Distressed Students: <https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/feeling-distressed>

English Language Resources: <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>

Writing Centre: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>