

# PSY369H1 S

## Psychobiology Laboratory

### Winter 2025 Syllabus

## Course Meetings

### PSY369H1 S

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC0101	Thursday, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	In Person: RW 307

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

## Course Contacts

**Course Website:** <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/372446>

**Instructor:** Dr. Laura Corbit

**Email:** [laura.corbit@utoronto.ca](mailto:laura.corbit@utoronto.ca)

**Phone:** 416-978-7817

**Office Hours and Location:** by appointment

**Additional Notes:** There will be many opportunities to ask questions in class. You can also make an appointment to see me at any time during the semester.

## Course Overview

This lab is an introduction to experimental methods in behavioural neuroscience, including neuroanatomical and psychopharmacological methods in rodents. Course projects will cover experimental design, laboratory techniques, data analysis, and scientific writing. *Class data will be analyzed using analysis of variance (ANOVA) and related statistical methods, so familiarity with these methods is recommended preparation.* Course capacity is limited to 12 students, and priority is given to PSY Specialists and Research Specialists during the first enrolment period.

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### Course Learning Outcomes

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

- handle rodents.

- perform basic histological techniques on frozen brain tissue.
- collect, analyze and interpret behavioural neuroscientific and pharmacological data.
- apply critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry and the scientific approach to answer questions related to learning and behaviour.
- compose a journal article style scientific report.

**Prerequisites:** PSY202H1/ ECO220Y1/ SOC252H1/ STA221H1/ ECO220Y5/ PSY202H5/ STA221H5/ PSYC08H3/ STAB27H3/ STAC32H3, **and** PSY290H1/ PSY290H5/ PSYB55H3/ PSYB64H3/ HMB200H1

**Corequisites:** None

**Exclusions:** HMB310H1/ PSY369H5

**Recommended Preparation:** PSY203H1

**Credit Value:** 0.5

## Course Materials

There is no assigned textbook for this course. Research articles will be assigned throughout the course.

## Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Animal Model Evaluation	10%		2025-01-24
Introduction	10%		2025-02-14
Methods & Results	20%		2025-03-07
Discussion	15%		2025-03-14
Histology	10%		2025-04-03
Final Paper	35%		2025-04-04

## Late Assessment Submissions Policy

A penalty of 5% of the total mark for the assignment will be applied for each 24 hours that the assignment is late including weekends.

## Course Schedule

Week	Description	
Jan 9	1. Introduction, Animal models	Read Deroche-Gamonet et al. 2004

<b>Jan 16</b>	<b>2. Animal Care Training 1*</b>	Online modules must be completed prior to class.
<b>Jan 23</b>	<b>3. Animal Care Training 2*</b>	<b>Animal Model Evaluation (10%)</b>
<b>Jan 30</b>	<b>4. Animal Care Training 3*</b>	
<b>Feb 6</b>	5. Experiment 1, Day 1	
<b>Feb 13</b>	6. Experiment 1, Day 2	<b>Introduction for Experiment 1 (10%)</b>
<b>Feb 27</b>	7. Experiment 1, Day 3	
<b>Mar 6</b>	8. Experiment 2, Day 1	<b>Methods and Results for Experiment 1 (20%)</b>
<b>Mar 13</b>	9. Experiment 2, Day 2	<b>Discussion for Experiment 1 (15%)</b>
<b>Mar 20</b>	10. Experiment 3, Day 3 (as needed) Histology: slicing and staining	
<b>Mar 27</b>	11. Histological Analyses	
<b>Apr 3</b>	12. Advanced techniques and course wrap-up	<b>Histology (10%)</b>
<b>Apr 4</b>		<b>Final Paper (35%)</b>

## Policies & Statements

### Late/Missed Assignments

If you miss class or an assignment deadline for any reason, please contact the instructor as soon as possible, and within one week of the missed class or deadline.

## Absences

Students who are absent from academic participation for any reason (e.g., illness or injury, personal circumstances) and who require consideration for missed academic work should provide documentation in one of the following forms:

- Absence Declaration via ACORN
- U of T Verification of Illness or Injury Form (VOI)
- College Registrar's letter
- Letter of Academic Accommodation from Accessibility Services

Students may only use the Absence Declaration once per academic term (e.g., the Winter term) for a maximum period of 7 consecutive calendar days. Students should also advise their instructor of their absence within one week of the absence. If an absence extends beyond 7 consecutive days, or if you have a non-medical personal situation preventing you from completing your academic work, you should connect with your College Registrar. They can provide advice and additional assistance.

If you have an ongoing issue that is likely to affect your performance in the course, please contact accessibility services (more details below).

Extensions are possible where warranted however late assignments will not be accepted after feedback is provided to the class (usually the next class after the deadline). In such cases, marks may be reweighted as long as the absence is appropriately documented.

## 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>).

## 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.

## **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.

## **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>).

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Attendance**

As a laboratory class, participation is important; the more you engage, the more you will get out of the experience. Apart from cases of illness or circumstances beyond your control, please make every effort to arrive to class on time and ready to participate. Attendance in the animal handling training sessions is mandatory and you must complete these sessions in order to participate in the subsequent classes.

## **Assignment Submission Method**

All assignments should be submitted via Quercus.

## **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.

## **Mental Health and Well-Being**

Your mental health is important. Throughout university life, there are many experiences that can impact your mental health and well-being. As a University of Toronto student, you can access free mental health and wellbeing services at Health & Wellness (<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/health-wellness/>) such as same day counselling, brief counselling, medical care, skill-building workshops, and drop-in peer support. You can also meet with a Wellness Navigation Advisor who can connect you with other campus and community services and support. Call the mental health clinic at 416-978-8030 ext. 5 to book an appointment or visit <https://uoft.me/mentalhealthcare> to learn about the services available to you.

You can also visit your College Registrar to learn about the resources and supports available:  
<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/college-registrars-offices>

If you're in distress, you can access immediate support: <https://uoft.me/feelingdistressed>