

PSYCHOLOGY 251 (A01) – INTRODUCTION TO MIND & BRAIN – SPRING 2021
COURSE ONLINE

TIME: Monday & Thursday, 8:30am – 9:50am LOCATION : Zoom! WEB : BrightSpace

INSTRUCTOR : Prof. Adam Krawitz

EMAIL: akrawitz@uvic.ca ZOOM OFFICE HOURS : TBA on BrightSpace

TEACHING ASSISTANT : Erin Light

EMAIL: emmlight@uvic.ca ZOOM OFFICE HOURS : TBA on BrightSpace

COURSE INTRODUCTION & GOALS

“The question for me is how can the human mind fit in the physical universe? We now know that the world is governed by physics. We now understand the

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ONLINE COB

Since PSYC 251 (A01) Spring 2021 is an entirely online course, a number of things will be different than is typical for PSYC 251 at UVic. An online course with ~200 students is a major undertaking! So, please be patient and flexible as the term unfolds, and be aware that plans might be adjusted as we discover what is and is not effective in this new environment.

An overarching goal is to provide you with the material and the experience of the “normal” PSYC 251 as best we can, so that you will be prepared to transition back into the classroom for future courses as seamlessly as possible, whenever that day comes (the sooner rather than later!).

AVAILABILITY : Our class meets **Monday 8:30am-9:50am** . As per the official UVic policy

(<https://www.uvic.ca/students/covid-19/academics/>)

CLASSROOM : Our online classes will meet using **Zoom** . We are using UVic’s enterprise installation of Zoom, which includes enhanced security features to keep your classroom safe and secure. You will need to

download the
Zoom app

Download

here

RECORDING : **Classes are**

CLASS FORMAT : Classes will be lecture-based with questions, and discussion. I will share my PowerPoint slides on the screen and use a stylus to write on them. At times I will have you respond via Zoom Polls, so you can participate in an impromptu experiment, gauge the class’s understanding. You can use the Zoom Chat to let me know you have a question to ask via audio/video or you can type your question directly into the chat. Sometimes, you will be organized into Zoom Breakout Rooms so you can discuss the material with a small number of your fellow students before being brought back together to further discuss as a class. Hopefully, this format will keep us engaged, and maximize understanding!

ZOOM CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE :

A Please keep your microphone off unless you are asking a question or you are in a breakout room. This greatly helps with sound quality and avoids audio feedback.

B It is up to you whether to have your video on, but it can be nice to see each other in order to create a more comfortable and collegial atmosphere.

G In general, if we act the same way as we would in a real classroom, we should be fine.

EXAMS : Exams will be online and administered through **Blackboard** . I will discuss the details of how they will work as we approach the first exam.

OFFICE HOURS : I will be holding online office hours through **Zoom** . The link will be in **Blackboard** . When you enter office hours, you will initially be in the main room. For general content questions, we can stay there so multiple students can benefit from the discussions. If a student wishes to discuss matters privately, I will bring them into a breakout room. Everyone else stays in the main room – feel free to chat while hanging out!

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY : You do NOT have permission to post course materials including lecture slides, assignments, or exams, on the Internet or to share this material with anyone else. If you do, you are committing a violation of academic integrity, as per the UVic Policy on Academic Integrity (https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsm_v), and may be subject to a zero on the exam or assignment, a failing grade for the course, and/or disciplinary probation or permanent suspension from the University of Victoria.

EXTRA CREDIT (UP TO 2%):

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION : Experience research being carried out here at Uvic, while simultaneously helping out our scientific community with data collection. Earn up to 2% toward your final grade by participating in research studies in the Department of Psychology. Fifteen minutes of participation will earn 0.25 credits and 0.25% may be counted toward this course. Each credit increases your final grade by 1%, thus 2 hours (i.e. 2 credits) of participation will earn the full 2%. For details, go to the Psychology Research Participation System web page at <https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/psychology/research/participants> and follow the instructions for students. You are encouraged, but not required, to participate in studies pertaining to this class. The last day for earning and assigning credits towards this course is **May 12**.

ALTERNATE ACTIVITY (ARTICLE REVIEWS) : If you want to earn extra credit, but do not wish to be a research participant, article reviews are an alternative. You will gain research experience by writing reviews of recent journal articles that report original research relevant to the course. Each review is worth 1% extra credit and a maximum of 2 reviews will be accepted (i.e. you earn a total of 2% extra credit). You must send an email to the TA no later than **May 12**, indicating you wish to use this option, and submitting the chosen journal article(s) for approval. Completed reviews must be submitted via BrightSpace no later than **May 12**. Details and requirements are on BrightSpace.

NOTE : You can combine Research Participation and Article Review, but the total cannot exceed 2%.

CONFERENCE SURVEY (CES)

Near the end of the term, you will receive an email inviting you to complete the CES on **Prima**. CES You can complete it at any time through the last day of classes.

I value your feedback on this course! The more students complete the survey, the more meaningful and informative the results will be. The CES provides information that I will use to improve this course in the future. It will also be used by the Department of Psychology to evaluate my performance as an instructor. I will not receive the results until after I have submitted a final grade for this course. Responses are anonymous unless you choose to say things in optional expanded comments that identify you.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Please consider the following suggestions for maximizing success:

- Take care of yourself and do your best to maintain a **healthy** lifestyle by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax.
- Attend, participate, and engage in class.
- Use the posted **resources** for note-taking, reference, and studying.
- Take the **assignments** seriously, and make sure you understand how to arrive at the correct answers.
- Read the **textbook** to augment the lecture material.
- When you are studying, don't just reread, actively **engage** with the material.
- Focus not just on facts, but also on **concepts**, **relationships**, and logical arguments.
- Don't** cram, rather, spread out your study time over days and weeks.
- Organize **your** questions using the Student Discussion Forum on BrightSpace.
- If you struggle in the course, **reach out** for help – we want you to succeed!

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Course Content

This course consists of a series of topics. Each topic will include a textbook reading, lectures, and an online lab activity. After the introductory topics on neurons and brains, each topic will focus on a specific cognitive process. As we learn about these cognitive processes, we will also encounter key concepts, theories, and models. We will grapple with the interrelationships between these ideas (and others) throughout the term:

TEACHING CONCEPTS :

Neural computation
 Neural representation
 Neuroplasticity
 Cognition as construction
 Interactive processes
 Hierarchical organization
 Converging methods
 Levels of analysis

COGNITIVE PROCESSES :

Perception
 Action
 Attention
 Long-Term Memory
 Language
 Decision Making

BRAIN AREAS :

Sensory cortex
 Motor cortex

COGNITIVE PROCESSES : Constituent parts of our mind. While they are often studied as distinct entities, we should not assume they are separable in terms of theoretical description, mental realization, or neural implementation.

BRAIN AREAS : Anatomical components of our brain. These areas are highly interconnected and function as an interactive, dynamical system. The implementation of cognitive process depends on many brain areas.

TEACHING CONCEPTS : These high-level principles describe concepts that hold true across multiple cognitive processes and brain areas, and provide organizing principles for understanding mind and brain.

RESEARCH METHODS : Types of data, including behavioral, computational, and physiological measures, collected to study the relationships between cognitive processes and brain areas informed by overarching concepts.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
Department of Psychology

Important Course Policy Information
Spring 2021

Prerequisites

Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Students who complete courses without prerequisites ARE NOT exempt from having to complete the prerequisite course(s) if such courses are required for the degree program.

Program Requirements

For more information see the UVic Calendar January 2021.

Registration Status

Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the deadlines set out in the current UVic Calendar.

~~What to do if you miss the deadline~~ *What to do if you miss the deadline scheduled during the formal exam period*

Apply at Records Services for a "Request for Academic Concession", normally within 10 working days of the date of the exam. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student's academic record.

OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here:

What to do if you require additional time to complete course requirements

Apply at Records Services for a "Request for Academic Concession", normally within 10 working days of the end of the course. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example,

BE WELL



A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Social Life, Friends, & Community at UVic:

Having a social network is an extremely important foundation for positive mental health. There are lots of benefits to joining clubs, course unions, intramurals and teams on campus.

<https://www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/undergraduate/connecting/index.php>

Health Services:

University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

www.uvic.ca/services/health/

Centre for Accessible Learning:

The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations www.uvic.ca/services/cal/. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Elders' Voices:

The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/

Mental Health Supports and Services:

Mental health supports and services are available to students from all areas of the UVic community: www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/undergraduate/

