

Syllabus

University of California at Los Angeles

PSYCH 115

Principles of Behavioral Neuroscience

T & R 1:00-3:05 over Zoom

Summer Sessions A

Instructor

Dr. J.M. Trott Office hours: Mon 11:00 am -12:00 pm; Tues 3:30 pm -4:30 pm

jmtrott@psych.ucla.edu

Teaching Assistant

Kayley Ozimac Office hours: Tuesdays 11:00am - 12:00pm

kayleyozimac@ucla.edu

Wednesday discussion sections (1A, 1C) & Kayley's remote office hours Zoom link

<https://ucla.zoom.us/j/7807773064>

Meeting ID: 780 777 3064

Kaia Sargent Office hours: Mondays 2:00pm - 3:00pm

kaiasargent@ucla.edu

Monday sections (1E & 1F) & Kaia's remote office hours Zoom link

<https://ucla.zoom.us/j/6577682842>

Meeting ID: 657 768 2842

Sonya Ashikyan Office hours: Tuesdays 4:00pm - 5:00pm

sonyaashikyan@ucla.edu

Thursday discussion sections (1B, 1D) & Sonya's remote office hours Zoom link

<https://ucla.zoom.us/j/8546849774>

Meeting ID: 854 684 9774

**TAs will not be holding OH during Week 1*

Course Website: Logon to BruinLearn/Canvas. You can access the site through

<https://bruinlearn.ucla.edu/courses/188661/>

Lecture and remote office hours Zoom link

<https://ucla.zoom.us/j/95817509233>

Meeting ID: 958 1750 9233

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFORMATION IN THIS SYLLABUS. PLEASE READ IT. THERE ARE THINGS HERE YOU MUST KNOW TO PASS THE CLASS.

Course Description: This course is designed to provide you with a survey of the anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology of the nervous system, with an emphasis on the biological basis of behavioral processes. We will discuss a wide range of introductory behavioral neuroscience topics, including the basis for sensation, perception, homeostasis, emotions, learning and memory.

Learning Outcomes:

- Gain an understanding of behavioral neuroscience across different layers of investigation/understanding including the molecular, cellular, circuit-level, systems, behavioral, functional, and pathological levels
- Gain an understanding of the physiological processes underlying sensation and perception

- Gain an understanding of the physiological processes underlying emotion, learning & memory
- Be able to examine experimental data to make conclusions about results

Prerequisites: Psych 100A, Life Sciences 2, 7A or 15. Designed for juniors/seniors

Course flexibility:

Due to the need for flexibility to ensure inclusion and equity for all students, particularly in the context of a waning pandemic and a summer course, elements in this syllabus are subject to change to ensure I am able to provide the best and fairest possible instruction and assessment in these difficult times. All changes will be posted online on the course websites announcements. I will endeavor to minimize such changes.

As the course proceeds, if you have specific issues that are preventing you from fully engaging in the course or its assessment, please discuss these with the instructor (not with the TAs) via email or in office hours.

*****I am here for you and we want to help you succeed in this course*****

Textbook (highly recommended): S. Marc Breedlove & Neil V. Watson. *Behavioral Neuroscience*, 9th Edition. Oxford University Press. *(older editions will still be useful to you).*

Lectures:

Lectures will be *live, online* over Zoom (link above) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3:05PM. *Attendance is encouraged for those who are able, but is not required. I will however monitor and potentially reward overall class attendance and participation.*

Students should feel free to ask questions of the instructor in class by raising their hand in Zoom and/or using the chat.

Lecture recordings: Lectures will be available as Zoom Recordings. Lecture videos will be available for the duration of the course.

Lecture slides: All slides will be posted on the course website, with the goal (not promise) of being posted prior to each lecture. Lecture slides are *not* complete study guides; *diligent note-taking is necessary.*

Discussion sections:

Discussion sections will also be remote over Zoom. Attendance is highly encouraged for those who are able, but not required. *We will however monitor and potentially reward overall class attendance and participation.*

During the discussion sections, your TAs will review and lead small group exercises on the lecture material. If you have specific questions about lecture content you would like the TA to discuss, please post this question in the discussion forum at least 24 hrs prior to section.

The primary benefit of discussion section is the active interaction with course material and the opportunity ask and answer questions. There will be little to no new content presented in discussion section. Instead, sections will primarily be review and active engagement with content already discussed in lecture, perhaps with an extra example (anything 'new' will not be tested in exams). As such, we will not record discussion section as this can reduce engagement and recordings do not provide added benefit for students.

According to departmental regulations, you must attend the same section each time to ensure continuity and manageable discussion section sizes. Only students who are enrolled in the section will be admitted. If you cannot attend your scheduled section, please try to find another student with whom you can switch for the entire quarter and then officially switch through the advising office. See their policy below:

"Please note that discussion section switches should only be requested if *absolutely necessary*, and if no other options are available. Section switches will only be done via email. If you are unable to attend the section you are currently enrolled in, you will first need to find a student in another section who wants to switch sections times with you (typically via the class's Discussion forum on BruinLearn). You may not request a discussion section switch if you are waitlisted for a class, you must be enrolled. You and the student you are planning to switch with will then

need to do the following to request a section switch: 1) Send an email to Diego Garcia, dgarcia@psych.ucla.edu, and be sure to Cc the student you are planning to switch with. 2) List each student's full name, UID#, and current section each are enrolled in (e.g. Dis 1B). 3) Briefly state why the section switch is absolutely necessary. 4) For identity verification, attach a photo of each student holding their BruinCard or other form of picture identification (e.g. Driver's License, Passport) next to their face."

ALL enrollment concerns should be brought up with the **Psychology Advising Office** at 1531 Franz Hall.

Office hours:

Both instructors and TAs will hold office hours (see times above). To ensure safety and access, office hours will be held on Zoom.

You may attend any or all of the office hours offered by the instructor or TAs; your attendance need not be restricted solely to the office hours of your section TA. If more than one student is in office hours at a time and you would like to have a private conversation with the instructor or TA, please let the instructor know when you arrive (e.g. via DM) or in an email beforehand. Those unable to attend office hours are highly encouraged to make use of discussion section and the discussion forum on the course website to get your questions answered. For student privacy reasons, office hours will not be recorded. The instructor will also respond to common questions on the discussion board.

Course Questions:

To ensure all students have access to the same information, all questions regarding the course material must be asked in office hours, discussion section, or through the course website on the discussion forum. The instructors and TAs will check and answer questions on the forum within 48 hr or less, and more quickly particularly in the days preceding exams. Students are encouraged to read the forum regularly and to participate in the discussions, answering questions if you like. All threads/questions asked on the forum will be answered/moderated by a TA or the instructor. *Questions regarding course content that are sent directly to the instructor or TAs will be posted to the discussion board with permission and/or anonymously.*

Confidential or personal issues that need to be addressed:

You are welcome to email the professor directly if you have questions of a personal nature.

Course communication:

All communication for this course will occur through the course website. Please turn on your notifications for course website if they are not already on and ensure they are being sent to an email you check regularly.

Civility:

The instructors and TAs try to model the interactions that they expect of students to ensure a safe learning space for all. These include encouraging varied perspectives and opinions, giving the benefit of the doubt to others, and recognizing and respecting the complex social identities that each of us brings to the table. In addition to this, we strive to practice fairly-applied and clear course policies, outlined in this syllabus. These are aligned with the UCLA Student Conduct code: the shared values of Respect, Accountability, Integrity, Service, and Excellence. When interacting with your peers, TAs, and instructors, both online and in person, do so with respect and compassion. When using text interactions (e.g., in the chat or on the discussion forum), please be mindful of tone and language and how this might be perceived by others. Instructors and TAs will do the same.

Course and Grading Details:

Weekly Quizzes - (30% of your final grade)

BruinLearn Weekly Assignment Quizzes: After every ~two lectures worth of material, there will be a corresponding ~10 question assignment quiz. These quizzes are designed to keep you on track with the material and give you a sense of what you need to know to be successful in the course. **After every second lecture, beginning in Week 1, the assignment will be available on the day following lecture by 12PM, and will be available until the following Tuesday at 1:00 PM, when lecture begins.** You may take and submit your

assignment as many times as you like during this period. Only the highest grade from your attempts will count toward your grade. After each one-week assignment period has closed, we will record your highest grade, and we will then reopen the assignment as a practice quiz so that you can access the questions in preparation for subsequent exams. If you fail to take an assignment, there will be no opportunity to make up the lost points. Your lowest quiz grade will be automatically dropped to assist in cases where you may be unable to complete a quiz. Quiz due dates will be posted in the BruinLearn calendar. These quizzes account for 30% of your overall grade.

Exams – (70% of your final grade)

Exams are not cumulative. Exams will consist of multiple choice/fill-in-the-blank/matching questions.

1 Midterm and 1 Final exam

The exams will cover lecture material (see schedule/listing below).

Midterm Exam 1 **Thursday July 11, last 90 min of class 1:35 PM - 3:05 PM.** 30% of grade

Final Exam 2 **Friday Aug 2, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM.** 40% of grade

****Depending on scheduling issues, we may instead opt to have two larger exams.**

Each exam is **noncumulative** i.e. Exam 1 will cover lectures 1-6, Exam 2 will cover lectures 7-15 (or whatever we get through!). Concepts in the course do, however, build so working knowledge of material from earlier sections will be needed for success on subsequent exams. Exams will only cover lecture material.

All exams will be conducted online through the course website. The exam will be open book, open note, and open internet. You must work alone, are not permitted to work with anyone else. Exams will be made up of ~30 multiple-choice questions and up to several short answer questions. I have instituted several **measures to discourage cheating and thus provide an assessment that is as fair as possible for all students. First, I ask that all students take the exam while joining my zoom room, with camera on. Each question will be given one at a time in random order and once answered you may not go back. You will have 90 or 120 min to take the exam (depending on the exam).** In my experience, students find this to be more than enough time for completing the exam. However, working with others (which is not allowed) will impede your ability to complete the exam. This goal of this format is to discourage cheating, promote equity, and maximize student success.

I appreciate that this format may require a study and test taking strategy than might be different from that you are used to. To that end, I highly encourage you to study and organize your notes into an easily digestible format in order to maximize your use of time during the exam. For example, prepare 'cheat sheets' to use during the exam. Taking notes on the lectures and reading and then organizing them in easily accessible formats is an excellent way to study and also provides a resource for the exam.

To further help you maximize your success, I will also add a bonus question for each exam based on class attendance and participation during lectures – we will discuss this in our first meeting.

During the exams the instructor will be available via Zoom to answer any questions you have (link posted on course website and above) and the instructor and TAs will respond to questions about the exam via email. If you experience technical difficulties with the exam, please alert the instructor as soon as you are able.

Late exam policy: If you are absolutely unable to take the exam at the stated time, you must let the instructor know ASAP and all requests for adjusted exam time must be approved ahead of time. To ensure exam integrity, students who are approved for an alternate exam time will receive an alternate, though equivalent, exam than the rest of the class. A time conflict occurring as a result of being enrolled in two classes held at the same time is not an allowable excuse to request a make-up exam and will not be accommodated. If you miss the exam, it will not be possible to make up the exam at a later time.

General Grading Policy:

Regrading: If you believe you received an inaccurate grade on an exam or quiz, then please raise your concerns with the professor. Grades will only be changed if sufficient evidence of understanding the material is presented.

Grade Curving: **If necessary, final grades may be curved upwards** to achieve a class distribution of ~20% A's, 30% B's, 40% C's, 10% D/F's. *WE WILL NOT BE CURVING ANY ONE'S GRADE DOWN FOR ANY REASON.*

Grades will be posted online. You may review your exam with any TA during office hours.

Grades will be on a straight scale: A+ 97-100, A 93-96.99, A- 90-92.99, B+ 87-89.99, B 83-86.99, B- 80-82.99, C+ 77-79.99, C 73-76.99, C- 70-72.99, D+ 67-69.99, D 63-66.99, D- 60-62.99, F<60.

Final grades will be posted on myUCLA Gradebook after the final exam has been completed and graded. If you notice an error in your grade, please alert the instructor ASAP and all errors will be corrected with haste. The instructor will not, however, respond to requests for grades to be 'bumped up' or otherwise changed in the absence of an error.

Fairness:

Everybody's grade will be based on the same quizzes and exams. Beyond what is listed in this syllabus and the extra credit questions on the exam, there will be no opportunities to earn additional points.

Plagiarism: There is an honor code in force for this course. All students are required to submit only their own work. Students are not to communicate with other students during exams in any way. Additionally, any knowledge of a violation of the honor code must be reported to the Professor, immediately. The honor code also applies to any extra credit essays. Any plagiarism, cheating or other violations of this honor code will result in an automatic grade of F in the course and be reported to the Dean of Students.

Attention& Warning:

As part of classroom instruction there may be videos of experimental animals. Much of the research discussed will focus on that collected with experimental animals such as rats and mice.

Course Schedule:

(Lecture content and exam dates and subject to revision, quiz dates are set)

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE, LECTURES, AND READINGS

Week	Date		Lecture	Topic	Reading
1	Tues	6-25	0, 1	Syllabus, Intro to Behavioral Neuroscience, History; Neuroanatomy	Ch. 1, 2
	Thurs	6-27	1, 2	Neuroanatomy & Neurophysiology (Resting Potential)	Ch. 3
2	Tues	7-2	3, 4	Neurophysiology (Resting & Action Potential); Neuropharmacology	Ch. 4
	Fri	7-5*	4, 5	Neuropharmacology; Modern Research methods	
3	Tues	7-9	5, 6	Modern Research Methods; Sensory Systems – Somatosensation	Ch. 8
	Thurs	7-11	7 (30 min of lect)	Sensory Systems – Olfaction (smell) & Gustation (taste)	Ch. 9
	Thurs	7-11	90 min of lecture	Lectures 1-6 (through somatosensation or whatever we get through on 7-9)	
4	Tues	7-16	7, 8	Olfaction, Gustation, Eating	Ch. 13
	Thurs	7-18	9	Vision	Ch. 10
5	Thurs	7-23	10, 11	Motor Systems, Neural Development	Ch. 11, Ch. 7

	Tues	7-25	11, 12	Neural Development; Fear	Ch. 15
6	Tues	7-30	13	Hippocampus & Memory	Ch. 17
	Thurs	8-1	14, 15	Time, Sleep	~
	Fri	8-2	FINAL	Lectures 7-15	

***July 4 is an academic holiday. Due to the abbreviated nature of the course, we still need to get through a bit of material that week before the first exam. Thus, the lecture on 7/4 will be pre-recorded/given over Zoom on July 5, at 1PM.*

General University Policies

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students needing an academic accommodation based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) located at (310) 825-1501 or A255 Murphy Hall. If you are already registered with the Center for Accessible Education (CAE), please request your Letter of Accommodation in the Student Portal. If you are seeking registration with the CAE, please submit your request for accommodations via the CAE website. Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations should submit their request for accommodations as soon as possible, **as it may take up to two weeks to review the request.** For more information, again, please visit the [CAE website](#), visit the CAE at A255 Murphy Hall, or contact us by phone at (310) 825-1501.

[source: Center for Accessible Education ([Faculty Questions](#))]

In parallel to CAE accommodations, the Office of Student Affairs has created a mechanism to assess a need for accommodations for a student in distress or coping with a non-disability related health situation. Under the Office of Student Affairs, Case Management Services, Office of the Dean of Students, CAPS, and Ashe Center will contact instructors of qualified students to ask about approved accommodations. The instructor will honor all accommodations.

For health concerns please go to CAPS <https://counseling.ucla.edu/> or the Ashe center <https://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu/>. For all other concerns please go to CAE <https://cae.ucla.edu/>.

Resources for Students: UCLA provides resources if you are feeling overwhelmed and need personal and/or academic assistance.

Please see the [Red Folder REV2020 web](#) for more information.

Title IX:

Advocacy and Confidential Services

Please note that Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 205 Covell Commons, Los Angeles, CA, 90095, care@careprogram.ucla.edu, (310) 206-246 5. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides confidential counseling to all students and can be reached 24/7 at (310) 825-0768.

Reporting and Non-confidential Services

Your professor is required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment to inform the Title IX Coordinator should he become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment. In addition, You can also report sexual violence or sexual harassment directly to the University's Title IX Coordinator, 2255 Murphy Hall, titleix@equity.ucla.edu, (310) 206-3417. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD at (310) 825-1491.

Student needs:

UCLA has created a new center located in the [UCLA Strathmore Building](#) to help serve the basic needs of UCLA students. This includes emergency support for students experience financial and houses crises, expansion of [Bruin Hub](#) and food access programs.

Enrollment policy:

As this is a core, impacted course in the Psychology major neither the instructor nor the TAs are able to handle any questions regarding enrollment, PTEs, etc. We are also unable to assign drops or incompletes (see below).

Concerns regarding enrollment should be directed to the Psychology Undergraduate Advising Office undergraduate@psych.ucla.edu.

"You cannot drop an impacted course after the second week of a term for other than exceptionally extenuating circumstances which must be approved by the L&S Executive Committee on referral by college counseling units. Exceptionally extenuating circumstances do not include circumstance of short duration where other alternatives exist."

Laptop access: Individuals who need a laptop can make use of the library's lending program:
<http://www.library.ucla.edu/clicc/lending>.

General University Policy on Course Design: It is the policy of the University (and the Psychology Department) that course instructors have the autonomy to design course content, policies, and methods of assessment. Students are responsible for reviewing the syllabus for assessment/policies for an individual course. It is up to the instructors to decide on methods of evaluation (e.g., exam formats, policies for late work, attendance and participation requirements). When students enroll in a course, they are agreeing to the policies and assessments outlined on the syllabus. Knowledge that another instructor teaches their class in a different way is not reasonable grounds for dispute. Disrespectful language or behavior toward course instructors and teaching assistants regarding grading or evaluation of coursework may represent a violation of the Student Code of Conduct (section 102.01f).

If you have additional questions, please contact the Psychology Advising Office at undergraduate@psych.ucla.edu. Please include your full name and UID # in all correspondence. You can also refer to our [website](#) for all Psychology Department Major/Minor/Specialization course requirement worksheets.

Student Agreement: By remaining in this course beyond the first week of Instruction, you (the Student) hereby acknowledge, accept, and agree to be bound by the Terms and Rules spelled out in this syllabus.