International Summer School 2026

An Introduction to Brain and Behaviour II (Block 2)

Module description

This psychology module is an introduction to the human brain, aiming to uncover how it is related to all aspects of your behaviour. If you opt to also take the second block, the course would continue by examining brain damage and different types of brain injuries, multisensory perception, the topics of amnesic syndrome and epilepsy. Finally we would also investigate how emotions are processed by the brain, and the function of sleep. Again, these sessions would be supported by practical laboratory sessions, in this case allowing you to develop fundamental skills in neuroimaging using electroencephalography.

Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate knowledge of the relationship between psychology and biology in normal and clinical states.
- Demonstrate the ability to search for and document evidence in an appropriate literary manner.
- Show evidence of critical evaluation in written work.
- Demonstrate an ability to produce a clear and coherent psychophysiology laboratory report.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the relevance of research and theory in the development of psychological disorders.
- Demonstrate engagement with contemporary psychology research practice through participation in research studies, or reflection on the methodological and ethical issues involved in conducting psychological research.

Teaching

Each week will incorporate a two 2 hour lectures classes per week.

Block 2, Week 1

- Visual perception & colour vision (JA)

Block 2, Week 2

- Multisensory Perception (JA)
- Laboratory practical on multisensory perception (JA)

Block 2, Week 3

- Lecture on Amnesic Syndrome and Epilepsy (PD)
- Laboratory practical on the Autonomic Nervous System (part 1) (PD)

Block 2, Week 4

- Lecture on Emotion, Stress, & Sleep (PD)
- Laboratory practical on the Autonomic Nervous System (part 2), including lie detection experiment (PD)

Assessment

1,500 word essay, answering two questions. Note that the questions may cover material from Block 1 and 2: 100%

Key reading List

J.P.Pinel and Steven J Barnes (2022) Biopsychology (11th ed) Available at the Campus book store.

L.J. Burton (2010) An interactive approach to writing essays and research reports in Psychology. Wiley. **(Highly recommended text for lab report)**

Alzheimer's disease reading:

National Institute of Aging (2011) Alzheimer's disease: unravelling the mystery. Part 2: What happens to the brain in AD; The hallmarks of AD; The changing brain in AD. Available here: http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/publication/part-2-what-happens-brain-ad/changing-brain-ad

Parkinson's/Huntington's disease reading:

Fritsch T, et al. (2012) Parkinson Disease: Research Update and Clinical Management. Southern Medical Journal, 105(12): 650-656.

Autonomic Nervous System reading:

Chapters 7 & 8 from:
Cacioppo, J. T., Tassinary, L., & Berntson, G. (2007). Handbook of psychophysiology
doi:10.13140/2.1.2871.1369