Experiential Learning in Science Communication

NESC/PSYO 3011 & 3012
September 2026 – April 2027

INSTRUCTOR

Name	Office	e-mail	Office hours
Dr. Kevin LeBlanc	LSC5215	Kevin.LeBlanc@dal.ca	Fridays 9am-10:30am

Teaching Assistants

Name	e-mail
Mya Dockrill	myadockrill@dal.ca
Callia Fieldhouse	cl717855@dal.ca

COURSE OVERVIEW

This is fundamentally a “learn to do by doing” course in which you will have the opportunity to develop and consolidate teaching and communication skills in the basics of Psychology and Neuroscience. You may acquire these skills by preparing and presenting material to your peers and first-year students, as well as critically evaluating assignments of the aforementioned groups. Class assessments are listed on p.3.

NOTE: NESC/PSYO 3011 must be taken prior to, and in conjunction with, NESC/PSYO 3012 in the same academic year and no credit can be given for one course without the other

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of these courses (3011 & 3012), you should be able to:

- Understand and explain general Psychology and Neuroscience topics.
- Manage your time effectively and efficiently.
- Effectively communicate scientific information both orally and in written form (*with a focus on clarity, organization, content, and timing*).
- Cooperate and collaborate with instructors and peers.
- Provide effective feedback and constructive criticism to peers and first-year students.
- Effectively manage students in a classroom environment.
- Lead productive classroom-based discussions with peers and first-year students.
- Create and critique lectures, oral presentations, writing assignments, and marking schemes.

Class Time

What?

Each 2-hour class will consist of student presentations (teaching-related or neuro/psych-related) and discussions, followed by a 60-min peer presentation of the upcoming first-year lab.

Attendance is essential and is included in the ‘Student Responsibilities’ component of the total course mark.

When?

Fridays 1:35pm-3:25pm

Where?

LSC-Common Area C202

LABS

What?

Students in NESC/PSYO 3011/12 will facilitate five (5) lab sessions per term (10 total) as laboratory “Prefects”.
Lab sessions run (roughly) every other week.

When?

Dates and times will vary depending on the 3011/12 student.
A schedule will be established within the first week of classes (fall and winter terms).

Where?

LSC-Neuro/Psych wing
Room 5207

ASSESSMENTS

Please refer to the NESC/PSYO3011/12 handbook for more details on the assessments.

What?	When?	Value (%)
Prefect responsibilities	Ongoing	30 (15X; 15Y)
Student responsibilities	Ongoing	8 (4X; 4Y)
Lab development (4P group)	Sign-up (*fall or winter*)	25
Teaching presentation (2P group)	Sign-up (*fall*)	15
Science Slam Presentation	Sign-up (*winter*)	15
Evaluation of a presentation	Sign-up (*fall*)	2
Visualizing science (Infographic)	Dec.9th	5

LETTER GRADING

A+	90-100.	**B+**	77-79	**C+**	65-69	**D**	50-54
A	85-89	**B**	73-76	**C**	60-64		
A-	80-84	**B-**	70-72	**C-**	55-59	**F**	0-49

Note: As an X/Y course, grades will not appear on a student's transcript until the end of the winter term (April). If you require an interim grade after the fall term, please email me (kevin.leblanc@dal.ca)

Student Resources and Support

Advising

General Advising https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
Science Program Advisors: https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/undergrad-students/degree-planning.html
Indigenous Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html
Black Students Advising Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html
International Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre/current-students.html

Academic supports

Library: https://libraries.dal.ca/
Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html
Studying for Success: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html
Copyright Office: https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html
Fair Dealing Guidelines https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing.html

Other supports and services

Student Health & Wellness Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html
Student Advocacy: https://dsu.ca/dsas
Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html

Safety

Biosafety: https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html
Chemical Safety: https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html
Radiation Safety: https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html
Scent-Free Program: https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html

University Policies and Statements

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel, and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre at 1321 Edward St or elders@dal.ca. Additional information regarding the Indigenous Student Centre can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Internationalization

At Dalhousie, 'thinking and acting globally' enhances the quality and impact of education, supporting learning that is "interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global in reach, and orientated toward solving problems that extend across national borders." Additional internationalization information can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/internationalization.html

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. Additional academic integrity information can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Accessibility

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for matters related to student accessibility and accommodation. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course (online or in-person) that result in barriers to your inclusion, please contact the Student Accessibility Centre (https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html) for

all courses offered by Dalhousie with the exception of Truro. For courses offered by the Faculty of Agriculture, please contact the Student Success Centre in Truro (https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre.html)

Conduct in the Classroom – Culture of Respect

Substantial and constructive dialogue on challenging issues is an important part of academic inquiry and exchange. It requires willingness to listen and tolerance of opposing points of view. Consideration of individual differences and alternative viewpoints is required of all class members, towards each other, towards instructors, and towards guest speakers. While expressions of differing perspectives are welcome and encouraged, the words and language used should remain within acceptable bounds of civility and respect.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Additional diversity and inclusion information can be found at: http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner - perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. The full Code of Student Conduct can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html

Fair Dealing Policy

The Dalhousie University Fair Dealing Policy provides guidance for the limited use of copyright protected material without the risk of infringement and without having to seek the permission of copyright owners. It is intended to provide a balance between the rights of creators and the rights of users at Dalhousie. Additional information regarding the Fair Dealing Policy can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/fair-dealing-policy-.html

Originality Checking Software

The course instructor may use Dalhousie's approved originality checking software and Google to check the originality of any work submitted for credit, in accordance with the Student Submission of Assignments and Use of Originality Checking Software Policy. Students are free, without penalty of grade, to choose an alternative method of attesting to the authenticity of their work and must inform the instructor no later than the last day to add/drop classes of their intent to choose an alternate method. Additional information regarding Originality Checking Software can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/student-submission-of-assignments-and-use-of-originality-checking-software-policy-.html

Student Use of Course Materials

Course materials are designed for use as part of this course at Dalhousie University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as books, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this course material for distribution (e.g. uploading to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law.