Psychology 1011 Syllabus

September-December 2026

INSTRUCTORS

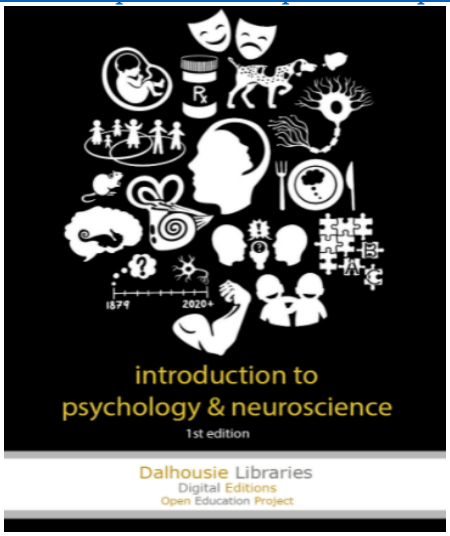
Name	Office	e-mail	Office hours
Dr. Kevin LeBlanc Course and Lab Coordinator & Unit 1 Instructor	LSC 5215	IntroPsych@dal.ca	Friday 9am-10am
Dr. Kevin Duffy Unit 2 Instructor	LSC 2338	Kevin.Duffy@dal.ca	TBD
Dr. Jennifer Stamp Unit 3 Instructor	LSC 2533	Jennifer.stamp@dal.ca	Monday 1:30pm-2:30pm or bookable through this link

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Material covered includes historical background, research methodology, neural mechanisms that underlie behaviour, sensory and perceptual processes, states of consciousness, learning, and memory. The course is taught by several different instructors with expertise in the topics covered. Students will complete five laboratory sessions designed to deepen their understanding of course concepts through hands-on activities and experiments.

REQUIRED READING

Online open access textbook with embedded Tricky Topic videos
FREE though link below:
https://caul-cbua.pressbooks.pub/intropsychneuro/



LECTURE DETAILS

This course is designed so that foundational learning (reading and watching tricky topic videos) is completed before class, allowing class time to focus on active learning with the instructor. During class, you will practice the study strategies needed to prepare for exam questions through activities such as creating summary tables, critically evaluating research, drawing diagrams, and applying psychological and neuroscience concepts, etc.

When?

Tuesdays & Thursdays
Sec 01: 10:05am-11:25am
Sec 02: 11:35am-12:55pm

Where?

Ondaatje Auditorium (Aud 2), McCain Building

LAB DETAILS

Hands-on activities in smaller groups, designed to complement lecture material. Please see the ***Lab Handbook*** for more information, rules, and guidelines.

When?

Dates and times vary depending on the lab section you have signed up for – it is EXTREMELY important to check the course Brightspace for the lab schedule.
You CANNOT rely on the schedule on DalOnline (or guess) your lab dates.

Where?

Psychology Department LSC 5207
All labs, will be in this room unless otherwise stated.

ASSESSMENTS & GRADING

EXAMS: 72% (24% for each unit exam)

Exams are completed in class through Brightspace using the LockDown Browser. Students are required to bring a fully charged laptop or tablet to access and complete the exam.

Each exam will contain 36 questions (multiple-choice and multi-select) and you will have 80 minutes to complete it. Each exam covers material from one unit only; exams are **not** cumulative.

Exams will take place during class time on the following dates:

Exam 1: Oct.6; Exam 2: Nov.3; Exam 3: TBD (during exam period)

QUIZZES: 3% (0.75% each, best 4 out of 6)

Quizzes are completed online through Brightspace. Each quiz will contain 10 questions (multiple-choice and multi-select format) and you will have 30 minutes to complete it. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes (only the best 4 out of 6 will count!).

Quizzes will close on the dates listed below at 11:59pm Atlantic time:

Quiz 1: Sept.18; Quiz 2: Sept.25
Quiz 3: Oct.16; Quiz 4: Oct.23
Quiz 5: Nov.20; Quiz 6: Dec.4

LABS: 25% (5% for each lab)

Each lab consists of a pre-lab quiz (0.5%), attending/participating in a lab session (0.5%), and a post-lab assignment (4%).

See the **Lab Handbook on Brightspace** for more information, rules, guidelines, and submission dates.

BONUS POINTS

You may earn up to three "bonus" percentage points in PSYO 1011 by participating in designated research projects in the Psychology and Neuroscience Department. These points are added to your final mark at the end of the term.

Here's the link to register and sign up:
http://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/psychology_neuroscience/research/credit-point-information.html

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

*To enroll in any higher-level psychology courses (2000 and above) you must receive a grade of **B-** or better in both PSYO 1011 and PSYO 1012 (or equivalent courses).*

PSYO 1011 FALL 2026 TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Unit	Lesson	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	1	Sept.8	Welcome, Orientation	
	2	Sept.10	What are Psychology & Neuroscience?	*Chapter 1 & 2* Sections 1-4 & 11
	3	Sept.15	Research Designs & Measuring Behaviour	*Chapter 2* Section 12-14
	4	Sept.17	Neuronal Structure	*Chapter 3* Section 19-20
	4	Sept.22	Synaptic Transmission & Action Potentials	*Chapter 3* Section 20
	5	Sept.24	Brain Anatomy and Function	*Chapter 3* Section 21-22
	5	Sept.29	Studying the Brain	*Chapter 3* Section 23
		Oct.1	Unit 1 Review	
		Oct.6	**Exam 1**	
2	6	Oct.8	Visual Transduction	*Chapter 4* Section 28-31
	6	Oct.13	Visual Pathway & Perception, Binocular Vision	*Chapter 4* Section 31 & 34
	7	Oct.15	Auditory Discrimination Auditory Transduction	*Chapter 4* Section 32
	7	Oct.20	Touch & Pain	*Chapter 4* Section 33
	8	Oct.22	Measuring Consciousness & Sleep	*Chapter 5* Section 39-43
	9	Oct.27	Drug Mechanisms	*Chapter 5* Section 44-45
		Oct.29	Unit 2 Review	
		Nov.3	**Exam 2**	
3	10	Nov.5	What is Memory?	*Chapter 6* Section 50-51

	10	Nov.17	Atkinson-Shiffrin Model Baddeley & Hitch Working Memory Model	*Chapter 6* Section 51
	11	Nov.19	Spatial Memory Forgetting	*Chapter 6* Section 52-53
	11	Nov.24	Hippocampus & Memory Biological Basis of Memory	*Chapter 6* Section 54
	12	Nov.26	Classical Conditioning Conditioned Taste Aversion	*Chapter 7* Section 60-62
	13	Dec.1	Operant Conditioning Schedules of Reinforcement Observational Learning	*Chapter 7* Section 63-64
		Dec.3	Unit 3 Review	
		TBD	**Exam 3 (During exam period)**	

IMPORTANT DETAILS

1. **To pass this course** you must obtain an overall grade of **50%** (**D**) out of the combination of the 3 unit exams, 5 lab assignments, and 4 quizzes (best 4 out of 6). HOWEVER, to go on in Psychology or Neuroscience (enroll in 2nd-year courses or major in Psychology/Neuroscience) you must receive a grade of **B-** or better in both PSYO1011 (or PSYO 1031) and PSYO1012 (or PSYO 1032).

2. Numerical grades are converted to **letter grades** for your official transcript (*see above for conversions*).

3. **If you are unable to write an exam**, you must **email** Dr. LeBlanc on the **day of the exam or before**. Make-up exams will only be considered in the case of medical or family emergencies and a **STUDENT DECLARATION OF ABSENCE** is **required** (submitted through the dropbox on Brightspace, **one (1) week from date of absence**). The Declaration of Absence can be downloaded from the dropbox space on Brightspace. If you **miss an exam** and do not submit a signed Declaration of Absence you will receive a mark of **zero (0).**

4. **There will be no make-up quizzes** for any reason. A missed quiz is worth zero (0). Out of the six (6) quizzes, your two lowest marks will automatically be dropped.

5. **Accommodations**: Students may request accommodation because of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the human rights legislation. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Student Accessibility Centre

prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information.

6. **Studying for success**: A variety of study skill programs are available for everyone. **Website**: http://dal.ca/sfs | **Email**: sfs@dal.ca | **Phone**: 494-3077

7. **Academic Integrity & Plagiarism**: Cheating in PSYO 1011 will not be tolerated.
   a. Dalhousie University defines plagiarism as the submission or presentation of the work of another as if it were one's own. It is considered a **serious academic offence** that may lead to the assignment of a **failing grade, suspension,** or **expulsion** from the University.
   b. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you familiarize yourself with the policies surrounding plagiarism at Dalhousie. Please visit **plagiarism.dal.ca** and complete the **Academic Integrity Module**.

8. **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools:** AI tools may be used to support learning and studying, but they must not be used to produce assessed work. Acceptable uses may include activities such as brainstorming ideas, explaining course concepts, generating practice questions, or providing grammar and language support. However, submitting AI-generated content as your own work or using AI to complete graded assessments are considered violations of academic integrity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Define what is meant by **Psychology**
- Identify and recall the major components of a **research study**
- Compare and contrast different **research designs**
- Describe the **organization of the nervous system**
- Describe how **communication occurs between neurons**
- Describe how our sensory systems **detect and code information from the outside world**
- Identify the anatomical structures that allow basic sensation and perception of vision, **hearing**, **touch**, **pain**, **taste**, and **smell**
- Define **consciousness** and explain how psychologists and neuroscientists measure it
- Describe changes in consciousness associated with coma, **attention**, **sleep**, hypnosis and **drugs**
- Identify **types of memory** and describe the processes of going from one type to the next
- Describe the factors that promote **remembering** and **forgetting**
- Relate **types of memory to brain regions** associated with them
- Explain how Psychologists define **learning**
- Describe different types of learning, including: **habituation**, **conditioning models**, **observational** learning and modelling, **imprinting**, and **conditioned taste aversion**
- Compare the difference between **reinforcement** and **punishment**
- Compare **classical** and **operant conditioning**
- Identify the role of particular **brain areas in learning processes**
- Find, read, and interpret **scientific literature**

- **Gather** and **interpret data**
- Conduct basic **statistical analyses** (descriptive)
- Read and create **graphs** from data
- **Manage your time** effectively and efficiently

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.