FACULTY OF SCIENCE COURSE SYLLABUS

Department of Psychology and Neuroscience

PSYO/NESC 1031 | Section 01 | Fall 2026

Introduction to Psychology and Neuroscience I: From Neuron to Person

Fall Term: Tuesday, September 8th – Wednesday, December 9th, 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name	E-mail	Office Hour Time	Specifics
Dr. Libby Myles	libby.myles@dal.ca	**Wednesdays 2-4 PM via Teams meeting**	**15-minute slots Must book by 5 PM Tuesdays Booking link here**

- Please include the course code (1031) in the subject line of your email.
- Be sure to check the syllabus or Brightspace **before** sending your email.
- Emails to the instructor are answered within 48 hours during regular working days/hours (M-F; 8 AM to 5 PM).
- **This email response window applies even on days when quizzes, labs, and tests are due.**

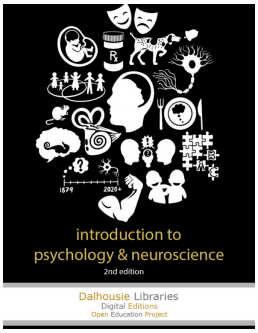
COURSE DESCRIPTION

PSYO 1031 is the online equivalent of PSYO 1011. Material covered includes historical background, research methodology, neural mechanisms that underlie behaviour, sensory and perceptual processes, states of consciousness, learning, and memory. All content for this course (e.g., lessons, quizzes, labs, tests) will be delivered and completed through Brightspace.

All deadlines and times are in **Atlantic time**. Some course content contains online resources (e.g., YouTube videos). **Students connecting to online resources** (e.g., YouTube videos) **from outside of Canada** are responsible for ensuring that they are aware of and in compliance with applicable laws within the country from which they are connecting.

REQUIRED READING

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



Brightspace notifications via email set up: https://bit.ly/4lsjp9o
Brightspace notification via app (Pulse): https://apps.brightspace.com/pulse/launch

GRADING SCHEME

Syllabus Quiz: Doesn't count towards final grade but **unlocks the other 6 quizzes**
Quizzes: 15% total (best 5 of 6 quizzes x 3% each)
Labs: 25% total (5 labs x 5% each)
Unit Tests (non-cumulative): 60% total (3 tests x 20% each)
BONUS FROM SONA: up to 3%

UNIT DATES AND ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Unit 1: Lessons 1-5

Wednesday, Sept. 9 – Tuesday, Oct. 6
Content available Sept. 9 (8 AM)

Syllabus Quiz: ASAP - Required to Unlock Quizzes
Quiz 1: Tues., Sept. 15 (7:59 PM)
Lab 1: Fri., Sept. 18 (11:59 PM)
Quiz 2: Tues., Sept. 29 (7:59 PM)
Lab 2: Fri., Oct. 2 (11:59 PM)
TEST 1: Tues., Oct. 6 (7:59 PM)

Unit 2: Lessons 6-9

Wednesday, Oct. 7 – Tuesday, Nov. 3
Content available Oct. 7 (8 AM)

Quiz 3: Tues., Oct. 13 (7:59 PM)
Lab 3: Fri., Oct. 16 (11:59 PM)
Quiz 4: Tues., Oct. 27 (7:59 PM)
Lab 4: Fri., Oct. 30 (11:59 PM)
TEST 2: Tues., Nov. 3 (7:59 PM)

Unit 3: Lessons 10-13

Wednesday, Nov. 4 – Tuesday, Dec. 8
Content available Nov. 4 (8 AM)

Fall Break Week: Nov. 9-13
Quiz 5: Tues., Nov. 17 (7:59 PM)
Lab 5: Fri., Nov. 20 (11:59 PM)
Quiz 6: Tues., Dec. 1 (7:59 PM)
TEST 3: Tues., Dec. 8 (7:59 PM)
SONA: Wed., Dec. 9 (11:59 PM)

If there is a Dalhousie campus closure on the day a quiz/lab is due or the day a test occurs, that assessment due date or time window will always be pushed 24 hours later to the next calendar day (e.g., Test 3 would be rescheduled to Wed., Dec. 9).

QUIZZES

What?

Short evaluations designed to assess basic knowledge of material from readings and videos.
Each quiz has **10 questions** (multiple-choice and multi-select) weighted to **3% of your grade** (if counted).

Where?

Completed **online** via Brightspace ("Assessments" > "Quizzes").

When?

Available at 8 AM the day units open; **START** at or before **7:59 PM** on these **Tuesdays**:

UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3
Quiz 1: Tues., Sept. 15	**Quiz 3: Tues., Oct. 13**	**Quiz 5: Tues., Nov. 17**
Quiz 2: Tues., Sept. 29	**Quiz 4: Tues., Oct. 27**	**Quiz 6: Tues., Dec. 1**

Once you start a quiz, you will have **exactly 20 minutes** to finish it.
Grades and feedback (**without** correct answers) will be available the day after the quiz closes (8 AM)
There are **no make-ups** for missed quizzes; your lowest scoring quiz of 6 is dropped (see **page 6**).

LABS

What?

Interactive and thought-provoking activities designed to complement class material.
Labs (**5% each**) consist of a **Pre-lab** (1%), **Part A** (2%), and **Part B** (2%).
Contact teaching assistants for ALL lab content and grading questions (see Brightspace homepage).

Where?

Completed **online** via Brightspace ("Assessments" > "Quizzes").
Before you begin, you can review the lab activity descriptions by accessing the lab quiz.

When?

Available at 8 AM the day units open; **SUBMIT** at or before **11:59 PM** on these **Fridays**:

UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3
Lab 1: Fri., Sept. 18	**Lab 3: Fri., Oct. 16**	**Lab 5: Fri., Nov. 20**
Lab 2: Fri., Oct. 2	**Lab 4: Fri., Oct. 30**	

Labs are **due by 11:59 PM** on the dates above, but there is an 8-hour grace period until 8 AM the next day.
Late labs will receive a **percentage point deduction** (see **page 6**) or a **0** beyond 48 hours late.
There are **no make-ups** for missed labs; they are open for an extended period before the due date.
Pre-lab grades and feedback (with correct answers) will be available 3 days after the due date (8 AM)
Parts A and B are graded by TAs; grades and feedback will appear when grading is complete.

TESTS

What?

Assessments designed to deeply evaluate your knowledge of content from each unit.
Each test has **40 questions** (multiple-choice and multi-select) weighted to **20% of your grade**.

Where?

Completed **online** via Brightspace ("Assessments" > "Quizzes").

When?

Available at 8 AM the final day of units; **START** at or before **7:59 PM** on these **Tuesdays**:

UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3
Test 1: Tues., Oct. 6	**Test 2: Tues., Nov. 3**	**Test 3: Tues., Dec. 8**

Practice tests will be available 2 weeks before each test and will close when the test opens (7:59 AM).
Test descriptions will be visible in the "Quizzes" area for your review at least 48 hours in advance (8 AM).
Once you start a test, you will have **exactly 80 minutes** to finish it.
Grades and feedback (**without** correct answers) will be available 7 days after writing (8 AM).
See pages 6-7 for SDA and missed test policies.

BONUS POINTS FROM SONA

What?

You may earn **up to 3% bonus** by participating in designated research projects in the Department of Psychology & Neuroscience.

Where?

Go to: http://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/psychology_neuroscience/research/credit-point-information.html
To register or sign-up, you can copy/paste the above link into your browser or click on it.
The link is also on Brightspace (go to "Content" → "Important Course Info" → "Bonus Points: SONA").
Note: You will need to log in the first time to get a password (different from your password for my.dal.ca).
If you have any issues with SONA, please email psych.ethics@dal.ca.

When?

Complete by **11:59 PM** on Dec. 9

Any SONA points earned throughout the term will be added to your final grade (up to 3 total).
You **must** assign points to PSYO 1031 and not to another course (e.g., PSYO 1011) **for them to be counted.**
SONA participation must be complete with points assigned to 1031 **by the deadline above to be counted**.
There is no additional opportunity for bonus points in this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Unit	Lesson	Topic	Chapter	Sections
1	1	Welcome/Course Orientation	N/A	N/A
	2	What Is Psychology and Neuroscience?	1, 2	1-4, 11
	3	Methods and Basic Statistics	2	12-14
	QUIZ 1 (TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15) – LESSONS 2 and 3			
	4	Biological Basis of Behaviour I: Introduction to the Nervous System	3	19-20
	5	Biological Basis of Behaviour II: Nervous System and the Brain	3	21-23
	QUIZ 2 (TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29) – LESSONS 4 and 5			
	UNIT 1 TEST (TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6) – LESSONS 2-5			
2	6	Sensation and Perception I: Vision	4	28-31, 34
	QUIZ 3 (TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13) – LESSON 6 ONLY			
	7	Sensation and Perception II: Olfaction, Audition, Gustation, Touch, Pain	4	32-33
	8	States of Consciousness I: Measuring Consciousness & Sleep	5	39-43
	QUIZ 4 (TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27) – LESSON 8 ONLY			
	9	States of Consciousness II: Drugs & Hypnosis	5	44-45
	UNIT 2 TEST (TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3) – LESSONS 6-9			
3	10	Memory I: Encoding & Storage	6	50-51
	QUIZ 5 (TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17) – LESSON 10 ONLY			
	11	Memory II: Recall & Forgetting	6	52-54
	12	Learning I: Classical & Operant Conditioning	7	60-62
	13	Learning II: Cognitive & Ecological Perspectives	7	63-64
	QUIZ 6 (TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1) – LESSONS 12 and 13			
	UNIT 3 TEST (TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8) – LESSONS 10-13			

DON'T FORGET THE FRIDAY LAB DEADLINES: SEPT. 18, OCT. 2, OCT. 16, OCT. 30, NOV. 20

COURSE POLICIES

Grading Policy

Numerical grades are converted to letter grades for your official transcript (see table below). Grades will be rounded up at .50 (e.g., an 89.50% is an A+, an 89.49% is an A). **There will be no additional rounding or adjusting of final grades with make-up work or extra assignments.**

To pass this course, you must obtain a grade of **50%** (**D**) from a combination of (3) tests, (5) labs, (5) highest quizzes (out of 6), and a possible 3 bonus percentage points from SONA. To enroll in 2nd-year Psychology or Neuroscience courses or major in Psychology or Neuroscience, you must receive a grade of **B minus** or better in **both** PSYO 1031 (or PSYO 1011) and PSYO 1032 (or PSYO 1012).

LETTER	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
%	90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	55-59	50-54	<50

Short- and Long-Term Illnesses or Personal Issues

SHORT-TERM ILLNESSES OR PERSONAL ISSUES are situations that may require students to miss **3 or fewer consecutive days of school** (e.g., due to minor illness, illness/death of a relative, injuries).

For these short-term concerns, a **STUDENT DECLARATION OF ABSENCE** (SDA) must be submitted to the Brightspace dropbox (i.e., fully completed and signed). The SDA form can be found attached to this dropbox (under "Assignments"). Currently, the SDA form only accepts "B00" ID numbers, as it has not been updated yet. **If your ID number starts with "B01", please put this number in the comment box when submitting. A MAXIMUM OF (1) SDA CAN BE USED IN PSYO 1031 AND ONLY FOR A UNIT TEST.**

LONG-TERM ILLNESSES OR PERSONAL ISSUES are situations that may require a student to miss **more than 3 consecutive days of school** (e.g., due to major illness, chronic illness, surgery, illness/death of a close relative, significant injury).

For these **long-term concerns**, or if you have already submitted one SDA, you can contact Patricia Laws (Student Affairs) at scieasst@dal.ca, so that case-by-case arrangements can be discussed as applicable.

Missed Quizzes

A MISSED QUIZ WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A ZERO (0). There are **no make-up quizzes for any reason;** quizzes are open for an extended period of time, and the lowest scoring quiz is dropped.

Missed or Late Labs

A LATE LAB WILL RECEIVE A PERCENTAGE POINT DEDUCTION AFTER THE 8-HOUR GRACE PERIOD. Labs submitted **within 8 hours** of the **DUE DATE** (i.e., by 8:00 AM the next day) will receive **no deduction**. Labs submitted **8 to 24 hours** after the **DUE DATE** (i.e., submitted 8:01 AM-11:59 PM the next day) will be deducted **10 percentage points**. Labs submitted **24 to 48 hours** after the **DUE DATE** (i.e., submitted 12:00 AM-11:59 PM the following day) will be deducted **20 percentage points**.

A LAB WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A ZERO (0) IF NOT SUBMITTED WITHIN 48 HOURS. There are **no make-up labs for any reason**; labs are available for an extended period of time.

Missed Unit Tests

If you miss a unit test due to a **short-term** illness or personal issue (**see definition on page 6**), you must **SUBMIT AN SDA BEFORE THE TEST'S END TIME** (i.e., by 7:59 PM), **unless** there are specific difficulties preventing this. In this rare case, please send **libby.myles@dal.ca** an email when you are able.

If you use your SDA for one of the tests, any makeup test or grade reweighting will be determined at the instructor's discretion. **Once test feedback has been released, there are no more opportunities to write a make-up test and a score of 0 will be assigned.**

If you miss a unit test due to a **long-term** illness or personal issue (**see definition on page 6**), you must reach out to Patricia Laws (**scieasst@dal.ca**) to discuss possible case-by-case arrangements.

Accommodations

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers (e.g., disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the human rights legislation).

Students who require academic accommodation for this course should make their request to the Student Accessibility Centre **prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year**.

GENERAL WEBSITE: **www.dal.ca/access** | **EMAIL**: **access@dal.ca** | **PHONE**: (902) 494-2836

Studying for Success (SFS)

A variety of study skills workshops that are available for everyone. Virtual and in-person study coaching (free) and tutoring ($20/hour) is also available (more information **here**).

GENERAL WEBSITE: **http://dal.ca/sfs** | **EMAIL**: **sfs@dal.ca** | **PHONE**: (902) 494-3077

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM IN PSYO 1031 WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Dalhousie expects all students to be responsible learners, demonstrating the values of intellectual honesty, trust, fairness, and respect in your work. Refer to the Statement on Intellectual Honesty for definitions of various academic offences.

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you familiarize yourself with the policies surrounding plagiarism at Dalhousie. Failure to meet Dalhousie's academic integrity standards will result in appropriate disciplinary and/or corrective measures.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes for this course will be included with the **lesson overview videos** that you will watch prior to working through the content of that lesson.

STUDENT SUPPORTS AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

Visit: https://dalu.sharepoint.com/sites/learn-teach/SitePages/syllabus-appendix.aspx