# PSYO 1501 - Integrated Introductory Psychology I
# Fall 2026 Psychology & Neuroscience Syllabus

**Instructor:** Dr. Janusz Borycz (jborycz@dal.ca)
**Office Hours** Thursdays 11:30am-12:30pm LSC P2539 and by appointment

Psychology covers a wide range of topics that address questions about behaviour and factors that influence it. This course offers an introduction to the scientific study of behaviour in humans and other animals. Lectures in the first term cover scientific methodology, neural mechanisms of behaviour, sensation & perception, learning, attention, and consciousness. The winter term covers motivation & drives, drug addiction, sleep, stress & health, child development, social behaviour, problem-solving & decision-making, intelligence, and the underpinnings and treatment of psychological disorders. DISP provides an environment for integrative learning, so knowledge and skills from other disciplines is applied to activities, particularly in integrated sessions and labs.

**Required Reading:** *(FREE open access electronic text, with embedded Tricky Topic videos)*
Introduction to Psychology & Neuroscience (2nd Edition) – Simple Book Publishing

**Prep & Practice Quizzes**
There are 3 open book quizzes based on the Tricky Topics, textbook readings and lecture material. They will be available in the week before the midterm or in the last week of semester. Each quiz will be covering the material to be tested on midterm or final exam. Some quiz questions can be like the ones used on tests, so it's recommended to complete the quizzes with one's own brain, to be prepared for the questions on higher stakes assessments. Quizzes are delivered on Brightspace, submissions are released immediately after the due date. There are no late submissions allowed for quizzes.

**Lecture Notes/Recordings/Tricky Topics**
Lecture pdfs will be posted on Brightspace before the lecture.
Brief lecture recordings, called Tricky Topics supplement in person lectures, are available on Brightspace and are also embedded in the electronic text. These can be viewed when convenient, before the quiz due date.

**Labs**
Laboratory activities involve brains-on demonstrations which sometimes involves participation in research, which is completely voluntary. Lab activity sheets and/or videos are posted on Brightspace before the lab; it's important to review these beforehand. Psychology labs involve data collection and analysis, so review of relevant statistical tests *before* lab activities is also recommended. In addition, students may earn up to **2 bonus** points **per term** for participation in: research studies in the Department Psychology & Neuroscience. This is added to the Psychology final mark at the end of the semester.

**Midterms and final exam**
There are 2 midterms on Oct 8th and Nov 17th and the final exam in the exam period. The final exam is not cumulative. If you miss midterm exam(s) you will write the make-up in the final exam period. No make-ups of midterm during the semester.

**Evaluation**

| Contribution to final grade | # | PSYO 1501 |
|---|---|---|
| Midterms | 2 | 40% (20% each) |
| Exam | 1 | 20% |
| Labs | 5 | 25% (5% each) |
| Quizzes | 3 | 12% total (4% each) |
| Attendance | 10 | 3% |
| Total | | 100% |

***Fall 2026***

| Week | Dates | Topics | Required Reading | Lab/Quiz Due *(10 pm)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sept 10<br>0835-0955<br>Dunn 101 | Measuring Behaviour | Psychological Research<br>*Sections 1-5, 10-14* | |
| 1 | Sept 10<br>1500-1730 | **LAB 1**<br>Ethogram Field (Public Gardens) | Psychological Research<br>*Sections 10-14* | Sept 10 (lab due) |
| 2 | Sept 17<br>0835-0955<br>Dunn 101 | Neuronal Structure, Synaptic Transmission, Action Potentials | Biological Basis of Behaviour<br>*Sections 19-21* | |
| 2 | Sept 18<br>**Group 1:** 1335-1525<br>**Group 2:** 1535-1725<br>LSC 5009 and 5012 | **LAB 2**<br>Opioid Lab | States of Consciousness Section 39 | Sep 18 (lab due) |
| 3 | Sept 24<br>0835-0955<br>Dunn 101 | Cortical Anatomy, Cortical Lateralization | Biological Basis of Behaviour<br>*Section 22* | |
| 4 | Oct 1<br>0835-0955<br>Dunn 101 | Auditory Discrimination, Auditory Transduction | Sensation & Perception<br>*Sections 25-26; 28-30* | Oct 6 (Quiz 1 due) |
| 5 | Oct 6<br>1005-1125<br>Dunn 101 | Visual Perception, Binocular Depth Perception | Sensation & Perception<br>*Sections 26-27* | |
| 5 | Oct 8<br>0835-0955<br>Dunn 101 | **Midterm #1** | **Covers:** Psychological Research, Biological Basis of Behaviour | |
| 6 | Oct 16<br>**Group 2:** 1335-1525<br>**Group 1:** 1535-1725<br>LSC 6009 and 6012 | **LAB 3**<br>Measuring Brain Activity and/or Hearing Test | **Review:** Sensation & Perception | Oct 16 (lab due) |
| 7 | Oct 23<br>**Group 2:** 1335-1525<br>LSC 6009 and 6012 | **LAB 4 Group 2**<br>Memory | **Review:** Content on Memory | Oct 5 (lab due) |
| 8 | Oct 29<br>0835-0955<br>Dunn 101 | Measuring Consciousness, Rhythmic Nature of Sleep, Hypnosis | States of Consciousness<br>*Sections 34-40* | |
| 8 | Oct 30<br>**Group 1:** 1335-1525<br>LSC 6009 and 6012 | **LAB 4 Group 1**<br>Memory | **Review:** Content on Memory | Oct 30 (lab due) |
| 9 | Nov 5<br>0835-0955<br>Dunn 101 | Atkinson Shiffrin Model, Baddeley's Model, Biological Basis of Memory | Memory<br>*Sections 49-54* | |
| | Nov 9-13 | READING WEEK | READING WEEK | |
| 10 | Nov 17<br>1005-1125<br>Dunn 101 | **Midterm #2** | **Covers:** Sensation & Perception; States of Consciousness | Nov 16 (Quiz 2 due |
| 10 | Nov 19<br>0835-0955<br>Dunn 101 | Classical Conditioning, Conditioned Taste Aversion | Learning<br>*Sections 59-61* | |

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| 10 | Nov 20<br>**Group 2:** 1335-1625<br>LSC 6009 and 6012 | **LAB 5**<br>Cold Pressor Test | **Review:** Content on Sensation and Perception and Memory | Nov 20<br>(lab due) |
| 11 | Nov 26<br>0835-0955<br>Dunn 101 | Operant Conditioning, Schedules of Reinforcement | Learning<br>*Sections 62-63* | |
| 11 | Nov 27<br>**Group 1:** 1335-1625<br>LSC 6009 and 6012 | **LAB 5**<br>Cold Pressor Test | **Review:** Content on Sensation and Perception and Memory | Nov 27<br>(lab due) |
| 12 | Dec 3<br>0835-0955<br>Dunn 101 | Language: Intelligence and IQ | Language and Intelligence<br>*Sections 72-74* | |
| 13 | TBA | End of Term Review | | Dec 7<br>(Quiz 3 due) |
| | **Final Exam Period** | **Exam** | **Covers:** Memory, Learning and Intelligence | TBA |