



PSY 369H1 – Psychobiology Laboratory

Fridays 1-4 pm, Ramsay Wright 307

****note: it remains possible that COVID-19 may necessitate changes to the course schedule and that some content may delivered online**

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Laura Corbit laura.corbit@utoronto.ca	Teaching Assistants: Alex Jacob alexander.jacob@mail.utoronto.ca
Office Hours: There will be many opportunities to ask questions in class. You can also make an appointment to see me at any time during the semester.	Office Hours: TBA

Course Description, Goals, and Prerequisites

Course Description: An introduction to experimental methods in behavioural neuroscience, including neuroanatomical and psychopharmacological methods in rodents. Course exercises will cover experimental design, laboratory techniques, data analysis, and scientific writing.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course students will be able to:

- handle rodents.
- perform basic histological techniques on frozen brain tissue.
- collect, analyze and interpret behavioural neuroscientific and pharmacological data.
- apply critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry and the scientific approach to answer questions related to learning and behaviour.
- compose a journal article style scientific report.

Prerequisites: PSY202 (or equivalent), PSY290/HMB200

Exclusions: HMB310/PSY369H5/PSYC06H3

Reading Material/Textbook(s)

There is no assigned textbook for this course. Papers will be assigned throughout the course.

Course Evaluation/Marking Scheme

Date	Assessment	Weight
Sept. 23rd, 2022	Animal Model Evaluation	10%
Oct. 14 th , 2022	Introduction	10%
Oct. 28th, 2022	Methods & Results	20%
Nov. 11 th , 2022	Discussion	15%
Dec. 2 nd , 2022	Histology	10%
Dec. 7 th , 2022	Final Paper	35%

Course Webpage/Quercus

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

This site will be used to post course materials (e.g. syllabus, slides), to make announcements, and this is where you will view your grades. *If you have any general questions regarding Quercus, please visit <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/46670>*. That said, most communication will happen during class.

Course Policies

What to expect

This course provides an introduction to behavioural neuroscience research. We will discuss theoretical and practical issues related to what makes a good experiment from both behavioural and neuroscience perspectives. You will receive hands-on experience performing experiments and writing up experimental results. Assignments for this course are either critical evaluations of methodologies or journal-style reports related to experiments performed in class. Further details about each assignment will be discussed in class and posted on Quercus.

Staying connected in the course

There will be lots of opportunities for questions in class. If something doesn't make sense to you, please ask questions early. Take responsibility for your learning and plan ahead; there is much more I can do to help if I am aware of a problem early. As a laboratory class, participation is important; the more you engage, the more you will get out of the experience.

Specific Medical Circumstances

This term the Verification of Illness (also known as a "doctor's note") is temporarily not required. Students who are absent from academic participation for any reason (e.g., COVID, cold, flu and other illness or injury, family situation) and who require consideration for missed academic work should report their absence through the online absence declaration. The declaration is available on ACORN under the Profile and Settings menu. Students should also advise the instructor of their absence as soon as possible and within one week of the absence. If an absence extends beyond 14 consecutive days, or if you have a non-medical personal situation preventing you from completing your academic work, you should connect with your College Registrar. They can provide advice and assistance reaching out to instructors on your behalf.

<https://help.acorn.utoronto.ca/blog/ufags/declare-an-absence/>

Note: The animal care training is mandatory in order for you to handle animals and participate in the in-class experiments. If you are sick one of those weeks, stay home but get in touch as soon as you are able to.

Missed/Late Assignments

If you miss a deadline due to illness, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. We will be flexible about documentation (please declare your absence in ACORN within one week) in the context of COVID-19, however, appreciate being notified about problems completing assessments as soon as possible. Assignments that are turned in late without some discussion with the instructor will incur a 5% penalty for every 24 hour period or portion thereof. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted because we will review feedback in class.

If you have an ongoing issue that is likely to affect your performance in the course, please contact accessibility services (more details below).

Religious accommodation

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of backgrounds, cultural traditions, and spiritual beliefs. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (like a test, or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Other

If anything else comes up for you over the semester, please schedule a time to talk to me and we will try to find a solution. There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me. It is also a very good idea to speak with an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can support you in requesting extensions or accommodations, and importantly, connect you with other resources on campus for help with your situation.

Accessibility Needs

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) (www.accessibility.utoronto.ca) at the beginning of the academic year. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your medical situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. I will work with AS to ensure appropriate accommodation in this course. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS. Note that registration with AS takes some time and so do this early in the semester if you think you will require their assistance.

Questions about grading

This small class provides an opportunity to discuss your work after it's marked and handed back. Any questions regarding a grade received in this course must be brought to the attention of the TA within two weeks of receiving the graded work. The student and TA must first discuss the grade and how it was reached. If the student is not satisfied with the response of the TA, the student can submit an appeal to Dr. Corbit within one week of receiving the response from the TA. You must present a clear argument for why the mark is in error and detail the item(s) that were not assessed accurately. Claims that the assigned marks were simply too low (or too high) will not be considered. A legitimate request will result in a re-grade of the entire work which may result in a higher, lower or identical grade.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism—representing someone else's work as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program—is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to me or your TA for advice on anything that you find unclear. To learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at www.writing.utoronto.ca/ . Consult the Code of Behaviour on

Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai> and <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation website (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Recorded Lectures

While some background material will be presented in class in a lecture format, these lectures will not be recorded.

Other Resources

As a student, you may experience a range of challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These factors may affect your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate fully in daily activities. There are many helpful resources available through your college Registrar or through Student Life (studentlife.utoronto.ca). An important part of the University experience is learning how and when to ask for help. Please take the time as early as possible to inform yourself of available resources and do not hesitate to seek assistance to help learn what supports are available.

Student Life Programs and Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/>)

Academic Success Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc>)

Counselling and Psychological Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc>)

Feeling overwhelmed?

Get help now, with school or general life!

Connect with uoft's "MySSP"

☎ 844-451-9700 in North America

☎ 001-416-380-6578 outside North America

🌐 studentlife.utoronto.ca/service/myssp/

Are you overloaded by coursework?

Get help planning & negotiating across classes

Contact your College Registrar

🌐 www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/college-registrars-offices

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Spectra Multilingual
Helpline
905-459-7777

Canada Suicide
Prevention Service
833-456-4566

Black Youth Helpline
833-294-8650

Anishnawbe Health
Toronto
416-360-0486

Lesbian Gay Bi
Trans Youth Line
647-694-4275

Toronto Rape Crisis
Centre
416-597-8808

Looking for self-education on
stress management?

Register for **BounceBack**

🌐 online.bouncebackonline.ca/

Course Outline/Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments
Sep 9	1. Introduction, Animal models	Read Deroche-Gamonet et al. 2004
Sep 16	2. Animal Care Training 1*	Online modules must be completed prior to class.
Sep 23	3. Animal Care Training 2*	Animal Model Evaluation (10%)
Sep 30	4. Animal Care Training 3*	
Oct 7	5. Experiment 1, Day 1	
Oct 14	6. Experiment 1, Day 2	Introduction for Experiment 1 (10%)
Oct 21	7. Experiment 1, Day 3	
Oct 28	8. Experiment 2, Day 1	Methods and Results for Experiment 1 (20%)
Nov 4	9. Experiment 2, Day 2	
Nov 11	READING WEEK – NO CLASS	Discussion for Experiment 1 (15%)
Nov 18	10. Experiment 3, Day 3 (as needed) Histology: slicing and staining	
Nov 25	11. Histological Analyses	
Dec 2	12. Advanced techniques and course wrap-up	Histology (10%)
Dec 7		Final Paper (35%)

*** These sessions are mandatory in order to perform experiments later in the class.**
Note: Topics may be updated if more or less time is needed for particular topics based on feedback from the class. Experiment and assignment dates will remain as posted unless discussed and agreed upon in class.