Faculty of Arts and Science - Psychology

PSY490H1 S
Seminar in Behavioural Neuroscience
Winter 2025 Syllabus

Course Meetings

PSY490H1 S

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC0101 Optogenetic Probing of Animal Behaviours	Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	In Person: SS 2101

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

Google doc link for presentation schedule:

Presentation schedule

Course Contacts

Instructor: Junchul Kim
Email: junchul.kim@utoronto.ca

Course Overview

An in-depth examination of current issues in behavioural neuroscience (e.g. activity of neurons, sensory, motor, motivational, and higher cortical systems.). Content in any given year depends on instructor. Course capacity is limited to 20 students and enrolment priority is given to PSY Specialists and Research Specialists.

An in-depth examination of current issues in behavioural neuroscience (e.g. activity of neurons, sensory, motor, motivational, and higher cortical systems.). The course will survey a variety of genetic neuron manipulation methods being used in the systems neuroscience field, with a particular focus on light-induced neuron manipulation methods and applications. Course capacity is limited to 20 students and enrolment priority is given to PSY Specialists and Research Specialists.

Prerequisites: PSY202H1/ ECO220Y1/ SOC252H1/ STA221H1/ ECO220Y5/ PSY202H5/ STA221H5/ PSYC08H3/ STAB27H3/ STAC32H3, *and* PSY290H1/ PSY290H5/ PSYB64H3/ HMB200H1/ PSL300H1
Corequisites: None
Exclusions: PSY490H5/ PSYD66H3

Recommended Preparation: None
Credit Value: 0.5

Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Presentation	40%		No Specific Date
Written summary of articles	30%	If you are assigned as a presenter for the week, you are exempt from submitting the written summary assignment. If you are not the presenter, please upload a one-page summary of the article (as a PDF file) before the class starts.	2024-01-26,2024-02-02,2024-02-09,2024-02-16,2024-03-01,2024-03-08,2024-03-15,2024-03-22,2024-03-29
Attendance and participation	30%		No Specific Date

Guidelines for Student Presentations in Seminar Class

1. Preparation:
• Consult with the instructor, if necessary, for any clarification or guidance regarding your presentation.

2. Content Focus:
• Concentrate on the main message, emphasizing key concepts rather than delving into small details.

3. Presentation Format:
•Length: Aim for a 20-30 minute presentation, allowing ample time for a 20-30 minute discussion.
•Structural Elements:
    Background
    Hypothesis/Research Question
    Findings/Methods
    Conclusion/Summary

4. Article Selection:
• Each student is assigned one research article.
• Depending on the article's length, you have the flexibility to cover more than one article.

5. Article Submission (For Presenters):
• If you are a presenter, upload the article (as a PDF file) one week before the scheduled presentation date.

Late Assessment Submissions Policy

Each written assignment is worth 3 points. Students will lose 2 points for each late written assignment and 3 points for missed assignment.

Course Schedule

Week	Description
Week 1 Jan 10	Introduction 1 - course outline and presentation schedule
Week 2 Jan 17	Introduction 2 - optogenetic approach
Week 3 Jan 24	Topic 1
Week 4 Jan 31	Topic 2
Week 5 Feb 7	Topic 3
Week 6 Feb 14	Topic 4
Week 7 Feb 28	Topic 5
Week 8 Mar 7	Topic 6
Week 9 Mar 14	Topic 7
Week 10 Mar 21	Topic 8
Week 11 Mar 28	Topic 9
Week 12 April 4	Topic 10

Policies & Statements

Plagiarism Detection Tool

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 web site (https://uoft.me/pdt-faq).

Late/Missed Assignments

Except for some official reason for missing assignments such as documented family emergency and documented illness, there will be no re-scheduled or make-up assignments. Accordingly, missed assignment submission will be treated as zeros for the given assignment.

Assignment Submission Method

The assignment file must be submitted via Turnitin as a single pdf file in the Quercus.

Religious Accommodations

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 cultural and religious traditions. 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 (such as 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.

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/. 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 situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Academic Integrity

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019)](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources. For example, 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 http://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 [A&S Student Academic Integrity (https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity) and the [University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity (https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca)](https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca).

Specific Medical Circumstances

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Accommodation for Personal Reasons

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 or to an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can help you to decide if you want to request an extension or other forms of academic consideration. They may be able to email your instructors directly to provide a College Registrar's letter of support and connect you with other helpful resources on campus.

Quercus Info

This Course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. New information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at https://q.utoronto.ca. SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until

they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.