

ISN104

BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY

Unit Description

The *Biological Foundations of Psychology* unit serves as an introduction to the neurobiological bases of behaviour. As such, students will be introduced to the fundamental principles of brain and nervous system functioning, including the neuroanatomy and function of the nervous system, neuron structure and function, electrical and chemical signalling, psychopharmacology, and genetics. The examination of these basic principles facilitates an understanding of more complex behaviours and processes such as homeostasis, biological rhythms, and sleep and waking states of consciousness.

Required Textbooks and Readings*

Freberg, L. A. (2018). *Discovering behavioural neuroscience: An introduction to biological psychology*, (4th ed.). Melbourne, VIC: Cengage

**Textbooks may be subject to change prior to the start of semester*

Administration Details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Core or Elective	Level	Unit Coordinator	Other Teaching Staff
Bachelor of Psychology	One semester	Core	First year, Semester 1	Dr Antonina Govic	N/A

Unit weighting as a percentage of the year

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
12.5	400

Student workload

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
4-hours (1 x 2-hour lecture; 1 x 2-hour face-face workshop)	6-hours	10-hours

Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Learning outcomes for Unit
I. Demonstrate and apply an understanding of the underlying concepts and principles of neuroscience and the relationship between brain processes and behaviour
II. Develop an understanding of key methodologies used for investigating brain and behaviour relationships
III. Develop basic researching skills by locating and retrieving relevant scientific literature on databases, accurately interpreting experimental findings, and critically evaluating neuroscience literature

Learning outcomes for Unit	
IV.	Present clear, well-structured, and empirically supported arguments on one of the following areas of behavioural neuroscience: psychopharmacology; neurophysiology; genetics; sleep and waking; homeostasis; neuroethics
V.	Gain an awareness of and critically examine the ethical issues and societal consequences arising from neuroscience research and technologies
VI.	Demonstrate effective interpersonal and teamwork skills with classmates in small and large group settings

Assessments

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (% of total marks for unit)	Unit Learning Outcomes
Major Essay [1,500 words]	25%	I, II, III, IV, V
Tutorial activities [Attendance and participation in discussions, debates, presentations, tests, and/or quizzes]	35%	I, II, III, IV, V, VI

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (% of total marks for unit)	Unit Learning Outcomes
Examination [60 item multiple choice items and 5 short answer test items]	40%	I, II, V

Delivery mode

Face to face on site; Full-time or Part-time study

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

None

Other Resource and Requirements

None

**Unit outlines may be subject to change. The most up-to-date outlines will be provided to students once the semester commences.*