

Brief Course Outline

Course Title:	Introduction to the Biological Basis of Behaviour	
Course Number and Section	PSYCHOL	2221A 550
Instructor Name(s):	Dr. Shelley Cross-Mellor	
Instructor Email(s):	scrossme@uwo.ca	

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

An introduction to the principles of evolutionary biology, genetics, and physiology in relation to behavior. This course is intended as an introduction to the biological basis of behavior for students who do not have a background in biology.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- Define and correctly use core biopsychology vocabulary
- Describe how brain activity gives rise to behaviour
- Analyze how behaviour is shaped by ongoing neural activity and prior experience
- Understand and evaluate research methods used to study the biology of behaviour.
- Describe the basic anatomical structures and functional organization of the nervous system
- Explain how different brain regions contribute to sensory processing, motor control, emotion, and cognition
- Identify and prioritize key ideas within biopsychology.
- Integrate concepts across topics (e.g., neuroanatomy, psychopharmacology, behaviour) to explain complex phenomena.
- Identify biological causes, symptoms and common treatments and intervention of major neurological and psychological disorders.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Biopsychology by Pinel & Barnes (Pearson) 11th edition, 2021 (\$72 e-book available at UWO Bookstore)

Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier edition (10th)

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Test 1	10/01/26	30
Test 2	11/05/26	35
Test 3	December Exam Period	35

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.