

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Humanities & Social Sciences
Programme:	Psychology
FHEQ Level:	4
Course Title:	Biological Basis of Human Behaviour
Course Code:	PSYC 4302
Total Hours:	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credit	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

Exposes students to the relationship between biology and behavior. Students are expected to assess critically the extent to which biological explanations can be used to understand or explain human behavior. Topics covered include the nervous system, brain, emotion, vision, attention, sleep and motivational behavior, as well as psychopathology (for example language, eating, perceptual and memory disorders). In addition, the course also looks at discusses ethical issues in psychological research related to neuroscience.

Prerequisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to scientific methods involved in the study of biological psychology.
- To introduce students to the different biological explanations of human behavior and to various topics in biological psychology.
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of psychology.
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century.
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally.

Programme Outcomes:

4AI; 4BI; 4CI

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of the scientific methods that gave rise and continue to shape theories in biological psychology
- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the different biological explanations of human behavior and of various topics in biological psychology.
- Demonstrate broad communication skills (including digital literacy) in deploying ideas and information in a range of different formats and media.

Indicative Content:

- Neuropsychology (Nervous system, Brain, Sleep)
- Cognition (Perception, Vision, Attention, Memory)
- Emotion
- Motivational behavior
- Ethical issues in psychological research related to neuroscience.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

- Kalat, J.W. (2018). *Biological Psychology*. 13th edition. Cengage.
- Ramachandran, V.S. (2011). *The Tell-Tale Brain*. Windmill Books.

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First Edition	Nov 24	