

# Psychology (PSYC) 289

## Psychology as a Natural Science (Revision 6)

**Delivery mode:** Individualized study online [↗](#) or Grouped study [↗](#) with eText [↗](#)

**Credits:** 3

**Areas of study:** Arts, Science, or Social Science

**Prerequisites:** None

**Precluded:** PSYC 206 (PSYC 289 may not be taken for credit if credit has already been obtained for PSYC 206.)

**Challenge:** PSYC 289 has a challenge for credit option.

**Faculty:** Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences [↗](#)

**Status:** Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#) [↗](#) for the current revision [✕](#)

## Overview

PSYC 289 introduces the broad areas of biological bases of behaviour, sensation and perception, learning and memory, and variations in consciousness. Specific topics covered include the brain, sleep, drugs, altered states of consciousness, touch, taste, smell, hearing, seeing, attention, visual perception, emotion, Pavlovian conditioning, operant conditioning, memory, and hypnosis.

## Outline


- Unit 1: The Evolution of Psychology: From Speculation to Science
- Unit 2: The Research Enterprise in Psychology
- Unit 3: The Biological Bases of Behaviour
- Unit 4: Sensation and Perception
- Unit 5: Variations in Consciousness
- Unit 6: Learning
- Unit 7: Memory
- Unit 8: Language and Thought

## Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for PSYC 289, you must complete eight quizzes, participate in a research project, and pass a final examination. You must achieve a composite course grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) and a grade of at least 60 per cent on the final examination. The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:


Activity	Weight
Eight Graded Quizzes (5% each)	40%

Activity	Weight
Research Participation	Fail/Pass
Final Exam	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>



The **final examination** for this course must be taken online with an AU-approved exam invigilator at an approved invigilation centre. It is your responsibility to ensure your chosen invigilation centre can accommodate online exams. For a list of invigilators who can accommodate online exams, visit the [Exam Invigilation Network](#) .

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .

## Materials

Weiten, W., & McCann, D. (2013). *Psychology: Themes and variations* (Third Canadian ed.). Toronto: Thomson Education Ltd.  (eText)

### eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on [electronic textbooks](#) , please refer to our [eText Initiative site](#) .

### Other materials

All other materials are available online.

## Challenge for credit

### Overview

The Challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about [Challenge for credit](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## Evaluation

To **receive credit** for the PSYC 289 challenge registration, you must write the examination alone, worth 100% of your final grade, and you must achieve a grade of at least **C- (60 percent)** or more on the examination.

 [Challenge for credit course registration form](#)

## Important links

- › [Academic advising](#)
- › [Program planning](#)
- › [Request assistance](#)
- › [Support services](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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*Updated February 28, 2022, by Student & Academic Services*

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