



Psychology (PSYC) 302

Biological Psychology (Revision 2)

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

Delivery mode: [Individualized study online](#). Delivered via Brightspace.

Credits: 3

Areas of study: Arts, Science, or Social Science

Prerequisites: A senior high school level biology course (or an introductory university biology course) and a course in introductory psychology (or animal behaviour) are strongly recommended.

Precluded: PSYC 402

Challenge:

PSYC 302 has a challenge for credit option.

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

Overview

Psychology 302 examines the relationship between the brain and behaviour. The course explores the biological basis of behaviour, learning, memory, language, and thinking, as well as disorders that arise from malfunctions of the nervous system.

Outline

- Unit 1: Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses
- Unit 2: Synapses
- Unit 3: Anatomy and Research Methods
- Unit 4: Genetics, Evolution, Development and Plasticity
- Unit 5: Vision
- Unit 6: The Other Sensory Systems

- Unit 7: Movement
- Unit 8: Wakefulness and Sleep
- Unit 9: Internal Regulation
- Unit 10: Reproductive Behaviours
- Unit 11: Emotional Behaviours
- Unit 12: The Biology of Learning and Memory
- Unit 13: Cognitive Functions
- Unit 14: Psychological Disorders

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for PSYC 302, you must complete all of the course assignments, achieve a mark of at least 50 percent on the final examination, and at least **D (50 percent)**  for the course composite grade. The weighting of assignments is as follows:

Activity	Weight
5 Quizzes	25%
Term Paper	35%
Final Exam	40%

Activity	Weight
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#)  section of the Calendar.

Materials

Digital course materials

Links to the following course materials will be made available in the course:

Kalat, J. W. (2019). *Biological Psychology* (13th ed.). Boston: Cengage.

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 302 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) on the examination.

[📄](#) **Challenge for credit course registration form**

Important links

- › **Academic advising** [↗](#)
- › **Program planning** [↗](#)
- › **Request assistance** [↗](#)
- › **Support services at AU** [↗](#)

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

Opened in Revision 2, March 12, 2025

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View **previous revision** 
