

**Western University
London Canada**

**Department of Psychology
Fall 2026**

Psychology 3226A Section 001

Hormones and Behaviour

1 Calendar Description

An in-depth review of current research problems in the field and the biological mechanisms by which hormones can affect behaviour. Topics may include hormones and brain development, sexual differentiation, sexual and courtship behaviour, parental behaviour, aggressive behaviour, stress, food intake, and endocrine disorders in humans.

Antirequisite(s): Psychology 3215F/G.

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s): Both Psychology 2801F/G (or one of Health Sciences 2801A/B, Psychology 2840F/G, Psychology 2855F/G) and Psychology 2811A/B (or one of Biology 2244A/B, Economics 2122A/B, Economics 2222A/B, Geography 2210A/B, Health Sciences 3801A/B, MOS 2242A/B, Psychology 2830A/B, Psychology 2850A/B, Sociology 2205A/B, Statistical Sciences 2035, Statistical Sciences 2141A/B, Statistical Sciences 2143A/B, Statistical Sciences 2244A/B, Statistical Sciences 2858A/B, the former Social Work 2207A/B), or the former Psychology 2820E, or both the former Psychology 2800E and the former Psychology 2810, and a grade of at least 70% in one of Psychology 2220A/B, Psychology 2221A/B or Neuroscience 2000.

Extra Information: 3 lecture/discussion hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Unless otherwise stated, students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all prerequisites prior to enrolling. Where prerequisites have not been met, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the course. In accordance with Western policy, this decision is not subject to appeal.

In the event of a discrepancy between this outline and Senate or University policies, the latter shall prevail. The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of this course outline for pedagogical or operational reasons. Any such changes will be communicated to students in a timely manner.

2 Course Information

Instructor:	Prof. Scott MacDougall-Shackleton
Office & Phone:	AFAR 200
Office Hours:	TBA on OWL Brightspace
Email:	smacdou2@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Time and Location of Classes: In Person, Thursdays 11:30-14:30. See Student Centre for complete Timetable

3 Course Materials

Textbook Required [Available at the bookstore](#)

An Introduction to Behavioral Endocrinology, Sixth Edition

RJ Nelson & LJ Kriegsfeld, Oxford University Press

Hardcover approx.. \$233

e-Book 180 day rental approx. \$88

4 Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course will examine how hormones affect behaviour. Students completing this course will acquire a strong foundation in behavioural endocrinology and will understand current research topics in the field on a variety of species. There will be a strong emphasis on biological processes that regulate behaviour.

Learning Outcome	Learning Activity	Assessment
Depth and Breadth of Knowledge. - Identify and describe key concepts in behavioural endocrinology - Identify major hormone systems and how they affect brain and behaviour - Describe how hormones are similar and different to other chemical messengers - Interpret evidence used to determine the effects of hormones on behaviour	Lectures and textbook readings. In-class activities and discussion	Midterm and Final Exams Weekly Quizzes
Knowledge of Methodologies. - Understand experimental paradigms for behavioural endocrinology - Understand methods used to measure and manipulate hormones.	Lectures and textbook readings. In-class activities	Midterm and Final Exams
Application of Knowledge. Critically evaluate popular media coverage of how hormones affect brain and behaviour.	Short written assignments	Short written assignment
Communication Skills. Writing short opinion pieces using clear and concise writing style	Short written assignments with peer feedback	Short written assignment

5 Evaluation

Evaluation in this course will be based on the following:

Weekly Online Quizzes (Best 10 of 12)	10%
Short Written Assignments (2 x 10%)	20%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%

Weekly online quizzes: will be 5 multiple choice or similar questions. Students will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz; each quiz will be available for several days but must be completed before the weekly class meeting. The quizzes are open book.

Short written assignments: will involve critical analysis of published research in the field.

Midterm exam: will cover materials from weeks 1-6 and will contain multiple choice questions. Please note that this assessment is considered to be central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided an opportunity for a make up midterm (see Policy on Missing Coursework below)

Final exam: will be scheduled during the December exam period. It will cover material from weeks 7-12 and will contain multiple choice questions.

The evaluation and testing formats for this course were created to assess the learning objectives as listed in section 4 and are necessary for meeting these learning objectives. All evaluations listed in this course outline are required components of the course and together account for 100% of the final grade. Weightings and assessment formats may be adjusted where required to support course learning objectives, with appropriate notice to students.

Policy on Missing Coursework

1. Only the top 10 of the 12 quizzes will be included in the final grade. No make-up quizzes are provided because each quiz is worth only 1% of your final grade in the course and you may miss up to 2 without penalty. You will receive a score of 0 for any missing quizzes, over and above the dropped two. If you require a longer-term accommodation for a health or wellness concern lasting more than a week, please seek official accommodation by submitting your documentation to the academic consideration portal. In these cases, the final quiz grade will be reweighted within category.
2. Written assignments will be conducted *in-person during regularly scheduled class time*. Students who are absent may request accommodation through the academic consideration portal and, if approved, a make-up time slot outside of regular class time will be offered to complete the short written assignment.
3. Because the final exam is not cumulative, the midterm exam is considered to be central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided an opportunity for a make up midterm

4. Students who have an accommodation to miss the midterm or final exam will be provided an opportunity for a makeup exam. If the makeup exam is missed due to an accommodation students may take the exam the next time the course is offered. Because the final exam is not cumulative, a missed midterm exam will not be re-weighted to the final exam and a make up exam is required to receive a grade for this course component.

Students who encounter extenuating circumstances affecting their academic responsibilities may submit a request for academic consideration in accordance with Western University's Academic Consideration policies. Requests must be submitted through the [Student Absence Portal](#) and may require supporting documentation.

This course is exempt from the Senate requirement that students receive assessment of their work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade at least three full days before the date of the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty.

Course grades within the Psychology Department are expected to be distributed around the following averages:

70%	1000-level to 2099-level courses
72%	2100-2999-level courses
75%	3000-level courses
80%	4000-level courses

In the event that course grades are significantly higher or lower than these averages, instructors may be required to make adjustments to course grades. Such adjustment might include the normalization of one or more course components and/or the re-weighting of various course components.

Policy on Grade Rounding

Course grades are rounded to the nearest whole number. No additional assignments will be offered to enhance a final grade. Requests to change a grade because it is needed for a future program will not be considered.

6 Assessment/Evaluation Schedule

Weekly online quizzes	Available weekly and must be completed by Thursday start of class
Written Assignment 1	In class Oct 8 (first 20 minutes of class)
Written Assignment 2	In class Nov 19 (first 20 minutes of class)
Midterm Examination	October 26, 7-9 PM
Final Examination	to be scheduled during December exam period

7 Class Schedule

Subject to revision. Consult OWL Brightspace for latest updates.

Week	Date	Topic
1	10-Sep	Introduction
2	17-Sep	Endocrine System
3	24-Sep	Sexual Development and Differentiation
4	01-Oct	Sex Differences in Brain and Cognition
5	08-Oct	Sexual and Reproductive Behaviour
		Fall Reading Week
6	22-Oct	Parental Behaviour
7	29-Oct	Aggression and Affiliation
8	05-Nov	Eating and Drinking
9	12-Nov	Biological Rhythms
10	19-Nov	Stress
11	26-Nov	Learning and Memory
12	03-Dec	Mood and Affective Disorders

8 Academic Integrity

Scholastic offences are treated seriously at Western University. Students are expected to understand and comply with the University's standards of academic integrity. Scholastic offences may result in penalties up to and including expulsion from the University. Please read [Western's Scholastic Offences](#) policy for definitions and examples of Scholastic offences.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during written assignments, midterm and final examinations. Devices may be used during class and weekly quizzes.

Plagiarism Detection Software

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western and Turnitin.com.

Use of AI

Responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools is **permitted** in this course as a support for learning, not as a substitute for critical thinking or scholarly work. All use of artificial intelligence tools must comply with Western University's academic integrity standards.

Students may use AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot) for:

- Brainstorming ideas or refining research questions
- Improving clarity, grammar, or organization

- Preliminary or background exploration of topics

AI must not be used to:

- Generate full drafts or final versions of assignments
- Replace analysis, interpretation, or synthesis
- Fabricate, misrepresent, or cite sources that the student has not independently consulted
- Bypass engagement with course materials

You are ultimately responsible for all work submitted under your name. AI output should be critically evaluated, substantially revised, and integrated thoughtfully, not copied verbatim.

All written assignments must include a brief AI Usage Statement, indicating:

- Which tools were used (if any)
- The purpose for which they were used
- How the output was modified and incorporated

Assignments submitted without an AI Usage Statement will not be accepted. Misuse of AI or failure to disclose its use may constitute a scholastic offence and will be addressed in accordance with Western University's academic integrity policies. Students are responsible for ensuring that all work complies with Western's scholastic integrity standards.

Multiple Choice Exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

9 Academic Accommodations and Accessible Education

Western University is committed to providing an accessible learning environment. Students with disabilities or medical conditions requiring accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessible Education as early as possible. Accommodations will be implemented in accordance with University policy. Please review [Western's policy on academic accommodations](#) for student with disabilities. Accessible Education provides supports and services to students with disabilities at Western. If you think you may qualify for ongoing accommodation that will be recognized in all your courses, visit [Accessible Education](#) for more information. Email: aw@uwo.ca Phone: 519 661-2147

10 Absence & Academic Consideration

Please review Western's policy on Academic Considerations:

11 Other Information

Helpful Websites

- Western's academic policies are available at the [Office of the Registrar](#).
- Departmental policies are available at the [Psychology Department website](#).
- Learning supports available at [Learning Development & Success](#).

Well-being

Western University provides a range of supports to promote student well-being. Students are encouraged to seek assistance when needed. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Health and Wellness at Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you.

Grade Appeals

If you wish to appeal a grade, please read the [policy documentation](#) on requests for relief. Please first contact the course instructor. If your issue is not resolved, you may make your appeal in writing to the Undergraduate Chair in Psychology (psyugrd@uwo.ca).

Copyright Statement

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, videos and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute any course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without the instructor's written consent.