

PS219-15 Psychobiology

24/25

Department

Psychology

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Friederike Schlaghecken

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

20% coursework, 80% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module aims to extend the basic psychobiological knowledge acquired in the first year

Module aims

The module extends the basic psychobiological knowledge acquired in the first year to more complex issues of nervous system functioning and nervous system/endocrine system interactions, in order to enable students to appreciate how a psychobiological perspective might help us to understand human behaviour. Particular emphasis is placed on providing an insight into the complexities of psychobiological research, its recent advances, as well as its limits.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Basics I: The neuron

Basics II: The nervous system - ONLINE TEST (wk 3)

Sexual development I: Genes and hormones

Sexual development II: Hormones and learning

Sexual behaviour

Laterality: Male and female brains

Homeostasis: Eating

Bodily rhythms: Sleep

Evolution

Drop-in & Feedback Session

Drop-in & Feedback Session

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles underlying the functional architecture of the brain at the macroscopic and the microscopic level
- students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles underlying the principles of signal processing in the brain and their relevance for understanding complex behaviour.
- students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles underlying the psychobiological underpinnings of genetics and neurochemistry
- students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles underlying the psychobiological underpinnings of sex differences and laterality
- students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles underlying the psychobiology of learning and memory
- students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles underlying the psychobiology of homeostatic processes
- students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles underlying the psychobiology of bodily rhythms
- students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles underlying basic concepts of evolutionary psychology

Indicative reading list

Purves, D., et al. (2012). Neuroscience. Sinauer (978-0878939671)

Carlson, N.R. (2013). Physiology of Behavior. Pearson (978-1292023205)

Breedlove, S.M., & Watson, N.V. (2013). Biological Psychology: An Introduction to Behavioral, Cognitive, and Clinical Neuroscience. Sinauer (978-0-87893-927-5)

LeVay, S. (1994). The Sexual Brain. MIT Press

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Subject specific skills

understanding of the basic principles of the functional architecture of the brain, mechanisms of signal processing in the brain, psychobiological underpinnings of genetics and neurochemistry, psychobiological underpinnings of sex differences and laterality, psychobiology of learning and memory, psychobiology of homeostatic processes and psychobiology of bodily rhythms.

Transferable skills

critical review of evidence supporting theories.

familiarity with collecting and organising stored information found in library book and journal collections, and online, critically evaluating primary and secondary sources;

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	27 sessions of 1 hour (18%)
Private study	123 hours (82%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

123 hours guided student study and assessment preparation

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group D4

	Weighting	Study time
Online MCQ test	20%	
end of week 2 and/or beginning of week 3 (depending on timetabling of lectures) open for 48 hours		
Online Examination	80%	
~Platforms - Moodle		

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Feedback on assessment

Tabula. Drop in sessions in term 3

[Past exam papers for PS219](#)

Availability

Pre-requisites

Students must have either undertaken PS121 or A-level (or equivalent) Biology

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 2 of UPSA-C800 Undergraduate Psychology
- Year 2 of UPSA-C801 Undergraduate Psychology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 2 of UPSA-C804 Undergraduate Psychology with Education Studies
- Year 2 of UPSA-C802 Undergraduate Psychology with Linguistics

This module is Core optional for:

- UPSA-C8L8 BAsc Psychology and Global Sustainable Development

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
- UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of L1CC Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway)
 - Year 2 of L1CD Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway)
 - Year 2 of L1CE Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway)
 - Year 2 of L1CF Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Tripartite Pathway)