



Brescia University College
LONDON CANADA

Psych 3215G, Section 530
Sex Differences in Behavioural Neuroscience

Dr. C. Tenk

2014-15

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines sex differences in the brain and behaviour of both humans and non-human species. Topics may include strategies and methods for evaluating sex differences, genetic and hormonal influences, cognition, affiliative behaviour, stress, motivation, reward, energy regulation, immune functioning, pain, and disease

Prerequisites: At least 60% in Psychology 2220A/B or 2221A/B

Antirequisites: Psychology 3225A/B, 3226A/B, Psychology 3990F/G taught at Brescia 2008-09 to 2010-11.

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Christine M. Tenk

Office: BR 211

E-mail: ctenk2@uwo.ca

Telephone: ext 28242

Office Hours: Monday 4:00 –5:00pm and by appointment

Time, Location of Classes: Monday 6:30 - 9:30pm, BR 204

Course Website: on Western OWL

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the student will be able to

- a) Describe sex differences in brain and behaviour of non-human and human species
- b) Hypothesize genetic, hormonal, social and/or psychological mechanisms for sex differences
- c) Initiate, direct, and actively participate in critical group discussions
- d) Independently research, analyze and summarize a focussed topic in sex differences
- e) Prepare and present an effective oral review of a focussed topic in sex differences

TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS

Required: Custom Course Pack for Psych 3215G from Western Bookstore

Recommended: Becker, J. B. et al. (2008). *Sex Differences in the Brain: From Genes to Behavior*. Oxford University Press.

CLASS SCHEDULE - subject to change, see WebCT Owl and class for updates

Date	Topic	Reading
Jan. 5	Who cares about sex differences?	Topic # 1
Jan. 12	Development of the Sexes Mechanisms Underlying Sex Differences	Topic #2
Jan. 19	Research Methodology	Topic #3
Jan. 26	Sex Differences in Cognition: From Rodents to Humans	Topic #4
Feb. 2	Midterm #1 – in class	Topics #1 – 4 (Jan. 5 – Jan. 26) inclusive
Feb. 9	Gender	Topic #5
Feb. 16-20	Reading Week – <i>no class</i>	
Feb. 23	Sex Differences in Motivation	Topic #6
Mar. 2	Sex Differences in Mental Health	Topic #7
Mar. 9	Sex Differences in Stress and HPA Axis Regulation	Topic #8
Mar. 16	Midterm #2 – In class	Topics #5 – 8 (Feb. 9 – Mar. 9) inclusive
Mar. 23	Skills building – Oral Presentation & Critical Analysis Essay Workshops	
Mar. 30	Presentations	
Apr. 6	Presentations	

Readings for each topic are available in the custom course pack from the Western Bookstore.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Welcome to Sex Differences in Behavioural Neuroscience! **In order to make the most of this learning experience for yourself and your fellow students, PLEASE**

- Do not use computers in class *for any reason*, except to take notes.
- Do not send or read e-mails/text messages/IM's during class time.
- Turn off cell phones.
- Refrain from speaking to a neighbour during class time (unless invited to do so by the instructor), especially if someone (either the instructor or a fellow class member) is speaking to the class.

These activities can be very distracting to your fellow students and to the instructor, and in that event, **you will be asked to refrain from these activities and/or to leave the classroom.** I look forward to teaching you in Psych 3215 and wish you all the best for a great term! ~ *Dr. T.*

EVALUATION & EXAM SCHEDULE

Evaluation Summary:

<u>Course Component</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Midterm #1	Mon. Feb. 2	23%
Midterm #2	Mon. Mar. 16	27%
Presentation Participation	Mar. 30, Apr. 6	15%
Essay	Apr. 13	5%
		30%

The two midterms will include questions in several formats, and may include multiple choice, definition, diagram, fill-in-the-blank, short answer and essay questions.

Midterm Exam #1:

Scheduled for Monday, February 2th, in class. Questions will be based on reading and lecture material from topics covered from Jan. 5 – Jan. 26, inclusive. Midterm #1 is worth 23% of your course mark.

Midterm Exam #2:

Scheduled for Monday, March 16th, in class. Questions will be based on reading and lecture material from topics covered from Feb. 9 through Mar. 9, inclusive. Midterm #2 is worth 27% of your course mark.

Tests are closed book and no aids are allowed. There will be no re-grading of short answer or essay type questions answered in pencil. Also, because of software currently in use that performs similarity reviews to check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating, **it is in your interest to avoid sitting near anyone you studied course material with.**

Presentation:

Working in pairs, students will give a 15-20 minute summary presentation on a topic in sex differences to the class. Groups will then lead the class in a critical discussion (at least 5 mins) of their topic.

Presentations will take place on Mar. 30 or April. 6. A presentation date will be randomly selected from these two possibilities for each group.

Students will be provided with a detailed marking scheme and expectations for this presentation during the course. The presentation is worth 15% of your mark.

Essay:

Students are required to prepare and submit an original, scholarly essay on their presentation topic. The essay will be a critical review essay and as such will require students to develop a solid understanding of and position on a particular topic in sex differences as well as provide a comparative analysis and evaluation of the current research on this issue. **NOTE: Each student must submit their own original essay including unique references. Plagiarism is a serious offence. Please see the policy on academic offences.** Students will be provided with a detailed marking scheme and expectations for this essay during the course. The essay is worth 30% of your mark.

Each essay must be at least 2,500 words, excluding reference list and other end notes. Essays should be printed using a 12 point font, minimum 2.54 cm (1 inch) margins and should be double spaced or printed at 1.5 line spacing. With a 12 point font such as Times New Roman, 2,500 words is approximately 10 pages with double spacing. Reference citations and essay format should follow APA guidelines. You should include references to academic and scholarly sources, most importantly to research articles published in academic journals. Note that references to general and non-peer reviewed sources (e.g., Wikipedia, general websites) are **not** considered scholarly references.

Please note: all essay topics must be approved by the instructor to ensure that the proposed essay topic falls within the area of the course and that there are sufficient sources to support your essay.

You need to submit a printed copy of your essay and a copy of your essay in electronic format or directly to Turnitin. All essays are entered into an electronic database for electronic checking for plagiarism. You will not receive a mark for your essay unless it is also submitted appropriately in electronic form. Instructions for submitting your essay directly to Turnitin will be posted on the course website and announced in class. Note that you need to submit both a printed copy for evaluation and an electronic copy, I will **not** print electronically submitted essays and use that printout as your essay submission.

Essays are due by 4pm on April. 13, 2014. There is a 20% per day **late penalty** for essays submitted after 4 pm on the due date.

Participation:

Participation is vital in this course and counts toward 5% of your mark. The participation grade will stem from in-class learning activities, attendance of workshops, and participation in critical

discussions.

Please note that grades **cannot** be adjusted on the basis of need. Your mark in the course will be the mark that you earn. Tests, exams or essays cannot be re-written to obtain a higher mark.

For questions regarding missed tests or exams, see the academic policies section, attached, or consult the professor or an Academic Advisor.

For academic accommodation to be considered for any course component worth less than 10% of the final course grade, it is the responsibility of the student to approach the course instructor(s) in a timely fashion. Documentation may be required to be submitted to the academic advisor. If documentation is required, the request for accommodation will be decided by the academic advisor in consultation with the instructor. If documentation is not required, the instructor will make the final decision. The policies governing requests for academic accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section included at the end of the course outline.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test

or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

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 The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.