



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

PSYCH 275 B2 (84437)

Winter 2026

BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR

Instructor Information



Instructor

Dr. Kyle Elliott Mathewson

Office: Bio Sci P235

Contact Information

<https://discord.gg/PW6Syy3k9w>

Office Hours: use discord for fastest responses

Additional office hours: by appointment

Lecture Room & Time

ETLC E1-001 - Tuesday Thursday 9:30AM - 10:50AM

Course Page: <https://psych275.netlify.app>

Calendar Description

An introduction to brain mechanisms involved in sensation, perception, movement, motivation, learning, and cognition, as studied in both humans and lower animals.

Prerequisites: PSYCH 104 or SCI 100. [Faculty of Science]

Additional Course Information (General Content)

Lecture and online text based course. All assessments derive from lectures.

Open-source textbook to prepare for lectures:

Link: <https://psych275.netlify.app>

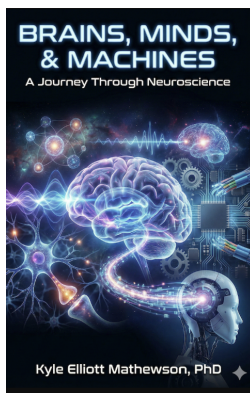
Additional reference textbook available: UTHHealth Neuroscience Online (free)

- <https://nba.uth.tmc.edu/neuroscience/toc.htm>

Course Objectives/Outcomes

- Understanding how brain mechanisms work rather than just memorizing facts— students will analyze data, interpret figures, and make predictions about neural systems and behavior.

Required Course Materials



Brains, Minds, & Machines

Subtitle: A journey through neuroscience

Authors: Kyle Elliott Mathewson

Edition: 2nd

Link: <https://psych275.netlify.app/>

Optional open-source textbook to supplement lectures.

Recommended Readings/Materials



Title: Neuroscience Online

Subtitle: An electronic textbook for the neurosciences

Authors: University of Texas Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy

Publisher: McGovern Medical School, University of Texas

Publication Date: 2000

Optional traditional textbook links with figures and demos

Link: <https://nba.uth.tmc.edu/neuroscience/toc.htm>

Grade Evaluation

Title	Assessment Type	Weight	Date of Evaluation
Quizzes	Quiz	30	1/15/26
Midterm	Midterm	35	2/24/26
Final	Exam (final)	35	4/17/26

Students must verify the date of the Final Exam on Bear Tracks when the Final Exam Schedule is posted. Grades are unofficial until approved by the Department and/or Faculty offering the course.

Re-examination

There is no possibility of a re-examination in this course.

Final Letter Grades

University of Alberta Grading Policy

Grades reflect judgements of student achievement made by instructors and must correspond to the associated descriptor. These judgements are based on a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class. Faculties may define acceptable grading practices in their disciplines. Such grading practices must align with the [University of Alberta Assessment and Grading Policy](#) and its procedures.

This table displays how Percent Ranges translate into Letter Grade and Grade Points.

Distribution of Grades											
Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
% Range	≥95	90-94	85-89	80-84	75-79	71-74	67-70	63-66	60-62	55-59	50-54
Grade Points	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0

Format of Course Assessments

- Written long answer quizzes at the end of lectures, selecting one question from a set of possible options.
- Midterm and Final will be in-person written, and a mix of short and long answer questions in which student pick a subset from a larger set of options.
- The Final will cover material covered after the midterm, but still will rely on knowledge of the earlier material.

AI Assisted Grading

Syllabus Statement: Use of AI-Assisted Grading

AI-Assisted Grading

This course uses AI-assisted tools—specifically the instructors own system of interactive guided grading tools—to support parts of the grading process. These tools assist in identifying patterns, enhancing consistency, and the efficiency of grading tasks. By streamlining these processes, more time can be dedicated to higher-value teaching activities, such as providing personalized feedback, developing learning materials, or directly supporting students, while also ensuring timely return of assessments.

AI tools may be used to assist in handwriting recognition and digitization, providing detailed rubric based feedback, and grading written quizzes, midterm, and final. Regardless of the tool's involvement, final responsibility for all grades rests with the instructor.

Data Use and Privacy:

Student submissions may be processed through these tools to provide grading support. In alignment with the tools terms of use:

- Your work is **not used to train public AI models**.
- Submitted data is typically **retained temporarily** to complete the grading task but is **not stored long-term**.
- No personally identifiable information is intentionally shared with the AI tool.

The handwriting grading and feedback system has been reviewed through the University's Privacy and Security Assessment process and is approved for use in AI-assisted grading. If you are concerned about how your data is handled, I encourage you to reach out to me with questions.

The appeals process for grades remains unchanged and follows standard university procedures.

Appeals & Error Handling:

If you believe your grade reflects an oversight—by the AI tool or a human reviewer, please review the rubric and contact me on discord within one week for re-evaluation.

Access to Past or Representative Evaluative Material

Representative sample questions and exam formats will be discussed in class prior to each assessment and provided in the course materials.

Practice exams are available on the course website.

Missed Term Work/Final Exam Due to Non-medical Protected Grounds (e.g., religious beliefs)

When a term assessment or final exam presents a conflict based on [non-medical protected grounds](#), students can register with the Academic Success Centre for accommodations via their [Register for Accommodations](#) website. Students can review their eligibility and choose the registration process specific for **Accommodations Based on Non-medical Protected Grounds**.

It is imperative that students review the dates of all course assessments upon receipt of the course syllabus, and register **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** to ensure the timely application of the accommodation. Students who register later in the term may experience unavoidable delays in the processing of the registration, which can affect the accommodation.

Policies for Late and Missed Term Work

Missed Quizzes:

The two lowest marks for assessment **quizzes** will be dropped when calculating the course mark. No late assignments will be accepted. Failure to complete an assignments on time for any reason will result in a mark of zero. Please note that you can miss two quizzes without penalty.

Missed Midterm or Final:

A student who cannot complete the **midterm** due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction, or other compelling reasons must contact the instructor within two working days of missing the assessment, or as soon as possible, to request an excused absence. If an excused absence is granted, then a makeup exam will be scheduled in the following week. An excused absence is a privilege and not a right. There is no guarantee that an absence will be excused. Misrepresentation of facts to gain an excused absence is a serious breach of the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#). In all cases, instructors may request adequate documentation to substantiate the reason for the absence, at their discretion.

Re-evaluation of Term Work

Students may request re-evaluation of term work within one week of grades being returned. Requests should be made via email with specific concerns identified. Note that re-evaluation may result in a grade increase, decrease, or no change. Note: After this time no further re-evaluations will be considered.

Deferred Final Examination

A student who cannot write the **final** examination due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction, or other compelling reasons can apply for a deferred final examination. Such an application must be made to the student's home Faculty Office within two working days of the missed exam and must be supported by appropriate documentation or a Statutory Declaration (see calendar on [Attendance](#)). Deferred examinations are a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferred examination will be granted. The Faculty may deny deferral requests in

cases where less than 50% of term work has been completed. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferred examination is a serious breach of the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, as well as maintaining a learning environment that fosters the safety, security, and inherent dignity of each member of the community, ensuring students conduct themselves accordingly. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards of academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#) and the [Student Conduct Policy](#), and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of academic misconduct (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts, participation in an offence) and non-academic misconduct (e.g., discrimination, harassment, physical assault). Academic and non-academic misconduct are taken very seriously and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students are expected to consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for clarification on the various academic offences. All forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the University. Unfamiliarity of the rules, procrastination or personal pressures are not acceptable excuses for committing an offence. Listen to your instructor, be a good person, ask for help when you need it, and do your own work – this will lead you toward a path to success. Any academic integrity concern in this course will be reported to the College.

Suspected cases of non-academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Student Success and Experience. The College, the Faculty, and the Dean of Students are committed to student rights and responsibilities, and adhere to due process and administrative fairness, as outlined in the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#) and the [Student Conduct Policy](#). Please refer to the policy websites for details on inappropriate behaviours and possible sanctions.

The College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS) has created an [Academic Integrity for CNAS Students](#) website. To access this website, students must be signed in to their UAlberta account. Website content includes the importance of academic integrity, examples of academic misconduct and possible sanctions, and the academic misconduct and appeal process.

Students can also access this material as an [online, self-directed Canvas course](#) and complete assessments to test their knowledge.

"Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching" – C.S. Lewis

University Policy

Withdrawals

See the University Calendar for the relevant [add/drop deadlines](#) for each term.

Course Outlines

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Academic Regulations, Evaluation Procedures and Grading section](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Academic Integrity

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Student *Academic Integrity Policy* and the *Student Conduct Policy* (on the [University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online](#) (UAPPOL) website) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Recordings

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content authors.

Accommodations for Students

In accordance with the University of Alberta's [Accommodation Policy](#) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#), accommodation support is available to eligible students who encounter limitations or restrictions to their ability to perform the daily activities necessary to pursue studies at a post-secondary level due to medical conditions and/or non-medical protected grounds. Accommodations are coordinated through the [Academic Success Centre](#), and students can learn more about eligibility on the [Register for Accommodations website](#).

It is recommended that students apply **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** in order to ensure sufficient time to complete accommodation registration and coordination. Students are advised to review and

adhere to published deadlines for accommodation approval and for specific accommodation requests (e.g., exam registration submission deadlines). Students who request accommodations less than a month in advance of the academic term for which they require accommodations may experience unavoidable delays or consequences in their academic programs, and may need to consider alternative academic schedules.

Disclaimer

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and/or posted on the course website. The date of final examinations is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in the syllabus.