

## Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2019/20 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

Module name	<b>Biological Psychology</b>
Module code	PS2004
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	Department of Psychology
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	5
Delivery location (partnership programmes only)	

### MODULE SUMMARY

#### Module outline and aims

The module provides you with skills and knowledge in the area of Biological Psychology. Such skill and knowledge is determined to be a core component for those taking undergraduate programmes accredited by the British Psychological Society.

This module will introduce you to the biological foundations of behaviour. You will learn about: the electrochemical basis of behaviour, the structure of the nervous system, and the neurophysiological basis of perception, action, memory and learning. You will also be motivated to think critically about how physiological processes relate to behaviour.

#### This module aims:

- To develop your understanding of behaviour as a biological phenomenon.
- To develop your understanding of behaviour as an adaptive process.
- To develop your understanding of the neural mechanisms of behaviour.

#### Content outline

- Historical approaches to the relations between brain and behaviour.
- Modern neurobiological methods and current issues in biological psychology.
- Basic neurobiology, neuronal communication and functional organisation of the brain.
- Neurophysiological basis of perception, attention and consciousness.
- Neurophysiological basis of memory and learning.
- Neurophysiological basis of action.
- Neurophysiological basis of schizophrenia

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### Pre-requisite Modules

PS1005 Biological approaches to mind and behaviour

### **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

**On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:**

#### Knowledge and understanding:

- Analyse specific methods of study in biological psychology, including their strengths and weaknesses.
- Be able to differentiate between the identities and locations of brain regions implicated in control of several core categories of behaviour.
- Explain how “dumb” biological mechanisms like neurones can combine and interact to generate several categories or complex human behaviour

#### Skills:

- Understand complex and dynamic biological systems.
- Integrate diverse areas of Psychology.
- Examine research methods used in biological psychology.

#### Values and attitudes:

- Recognise the importance of a scientific approach to the study of brain & cognition.

### **HOW WILL I LEARN?**

You will learn through guided study of course materials, including web-based material and selected readings. Suggested reading will be provided for each lecture, but this is not meant to be prescriptive and you should consider reading more widely.

Teaching includes lectures and an optional office tutorial. You are also encouraged to discuss and clarify material with other students and instructors via Moodle discussion forums.

#### *Teaching pattern:*

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours (scheduled)	Self-directed study hours (independent)	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
Lectures	Lecture	20	130	0	150

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Totals		20	130		150
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### WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

#### Assessments

2-hour MCQ based exam

The coursework comprises **AT LEAST ONE** contribution or change to a *Wiki Essay*. These are collaborative essays, where the whole group works together to provide answers to questions pertaining to the lectures (more information will be provided in class and on Moodle). The Wiki Essay is worth 10% of the module.

#### *Assessment pattern:*

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Coursework Wiki Essay contribution	Written assignment	10	0	N/A
Exam, unseen, 2 hours	Written exam	90	40	N/A

#### Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available to you prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available from the module leader.

#### Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, you will be given their marks and feedback in line with the Assessment Regulations and Policy. More information on the timing and type of feedback that will be provided for each assessment will be available from the module leader.

#### Assessment Regulations

The pass mark for the module is 40%. Any minimum qualifying marks for specific assessments are listed in the table above. The weighting of the different components can also be found above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module.



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### INDICATIVE READING LIST

Carlson, N.R. (2013). *Physiology of Behaviour* (11th edition). Boston: Pearson.

Purves, D., Cabeza, R., Huettel, S.A., LaBar, K.S., Platt, M.L., & Woldorff, M.G. (2013). *Principles of Cognitive Neuroscience* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Sunderland, MA: Sinauer.

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