BIOL2230
Neurophysiology
Session 1, Special circumstances, Other 2021
Department of Biological Sciences

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Notice
As part of Phase 3 of our return to campus plan, most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face activities for your unit, please go to timetable viewer. To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit’s iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Andrew Barron
BIOL2230@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
50cp at 1000 level or above including [(BIOL2220 or BIOL247) or (20cp from (BIOL1110 or BIOL115) or (BIOL1210 or BIOL108) or (ANAT1001 or HLTH108) or (ANAT1002 or HLTH109) or (PSYU1104 or PSYC104 or PSYU1101) or (PSYU1105 or PSYC105 or PSYU1102) or (COGS1000 or COGS100))]  

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This Unit considers the structure and function of the nervous system. We begin with an overview of the functional organization of the central and peripheral divisions of the nervous system. We discuss how the selective permeability of the cell membrane gives rise to the electrical properties of excitable cells. We look in detail at the generation, propagation and transmission of neural signals, and examine the important principles of sensory physiology such as transduction, adaptation and stimulus coding. Having covered these basic principles, the unit goes on to explore the somatosensory system, and the nerves and organs that give rise to the special senses (vision, hearing, taste and smell) are also discussed. We next examine the structure and physiology of muscle cells, and the central control of motor function. Lastly, we cover the autonomic nervous system and the neuroendocrine system, both of which regulate numerous physiological processes throughout the body.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Explain how neural signals are generated, transmitted and processed in different parts of the nervous system
ULO2: Understand how the nervous and endocrine systems interact
ULO3: Synthesise information taken from the scientific literature about the nervous system and present it to your peers in a concise format
ULO4: Assemble basic electrophysiology recording equipment and perform simple electrophysiological experiments
ULO5: Analyse and interpret the results of simple tests of neural function on human and/or invertebrate animal subjects

General Assessment Information

Online quizzes
The three quizzes are 20-minute online quizzes which you may do at home. Each quiz has 12 questions. Only one attempt at each quiz is allowed. Similar to the mid-semester test you will see only one question at a time. You will have only one chance to answer each question. You will answer questions sequentially. You may not go back in the quiz to correct any answers. Think carefully before answering and budget your overall time carefully.

Mid-semester Test
This test will include 35 multiple choice questions to be completed in 50 minutes. Any of the material covered in weeks 1-6 (lectures and practicals) may be included in the mid-semester test. You must complete the test individually. During the test you will see only one question at a time. You will have only one chance to answer each question. You will answer questions sequentially. You may not go back in the quiz to correct any answers. Think carefully before answering and budget your overall time carefully.

Infographic and presentation
The ability to communicate complex scientific (or other) concepts in simple terms to a range of audiences is a critical skill for scientists, clinicians and many other professions. This can be achieved effectively using an infographic: a visual representation of data, concepts or instructive material. Your task is to create a unique infographic that describes and explains one aspect of the visual system. You will also present your infographic in class.

Lab report and practical classes
Through your enrolment and personal timetable you will be assigned a practical time slot and you are expected to attend all practical classes.

The details of each of the three practical assignments are in the practical notes which can be accessed through iLearn. The completed assignments must be submitted to Turnitin by 11.55pm on the due dates given in the table above.

Final exam
The exam is a two hour paper with multiple choice questions, and short answer questions All the
Academic Honesty – please read, as this is very important

Presenting the work of another person as one’s own is a serious breach of the University’s rules and carries significant penalties. The University’s Academic Honesty Policy can be found at [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html) In this unit, we will be checking written work for plagiarism using TURNITIN. Penalties for plagiarism may include a zero mark for the assignment or in more extreme cases, failure of the unit. Plagiarism WILL be noted on your academic record. Full details of penalties can be found at [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/schedule_penalties.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/schedule_penalties.html)

Extensions, penalties and disruptions to studies

Late assignments will attract a penalty of 10% of the total marks allocated to the exercise per day. You may hand in your work after the due date and escape penalty only if you have an acceptable reason (usually a medical certificate). Discuss your problem with the Lecturer as early as possible before the due date, however note that all requests for extensions MUST be submitted using the online form: ask.mq.edu.au. Information about the Disruptions to Studies policy and procedure is online at Policy Central: [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/procedure.html). Information on managing your Disruptions to Studies: [http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/manage_your_study_program/disruption_to_studies/](http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/manage_your_study_program/disruption_to_studies/)

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Exam period - date TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab classes</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Practicals 12 &amp; 13 April and 15 &amp; 16 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Presentation in practicals in May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Semester Test</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Quiz closes 24 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Quiz dates in iLearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab reports</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Dates for lab reports in iLearn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Exam

Assessment Type 1: Examination
Indicative Time on Task 2: 2 hours
Due: Exam period - date TBA
Weighting: 45%
The final exam will be an invigilated exam held during the Semester 1 Exam Period. The exam will use a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions to evaluate your understanding of neurophysiological concepts presented in lectures and lab classes throughout the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Explain how neural signals are generated, transmitted and processed in different parts of the nervous system
• Assemble basic electrophysiology recording equipment and perform simple electrophysiological experiments

Lab classes

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 0 hours
Due: Practical 12 & 13 April and 15 & 16 May
Weighting: 0%

Through a range of lab activities you will learn about the physiology of the nervous system. You will assemble basic apparatus to measure neural function in animal models and perform simple tests of nerve function in humans.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Explain how neural signals are generated, transmitted and processed in different parts of the nervous system
• Understand how the nervous and endocrine systems interact
• Synthesise information taken from the scientific literature about the nervous system and present it to your peers in a concise format
• Assemble basic electrophysiology recording equipment and perform simple electrophysiological experiments

Presentation

Assessment Type 1: Presentation
Indicative Time on Task 2: 2 hours
Due: Presentation in practicals in May
Weighting: 6%
You will be assessed on your ability to synthesise information on a neuroscience topic and prepare an infographic and short presentation. You will also be assessed on your ability to prepare a visual information summary and deliver an oral presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:
  • Synthesise information taken from the scientific literature about the nervous system and present it to your peers in a concise format

**Mid-Semester Test**

**Assessment Type**: Quiz/Test  
**Indicative Time on Task**: 1 hours  
**Due**: Quiz closes 24 April  
**Weighting**: 20%

The mid semester test will examine your knowledge of the concepts covered in lectures and lab classes from Weeks 1 to 7 inclusive.

On successful completion you will be able to:
  • Explain how neural signals are generated, transmitted and processed in different parts of the nervous system  
  • Assemble basic electrophysiology recording equipment and perform simple electrophysiological experiments

**Quizzes**

**Assessment Type**: Quiz/Test  
**Indicative Time on Task**: 1 hours  
**Due**: Quiz dates in iLearn  
**Weighting**: 9%

These short online tests are designed to help you assess your progress in learning the unit content.

On successful completion you will be able to:
  • Explain how neural signals are generated, transmitted and processed in different parts of the nervous system
• Assemble basic electrophysiology recording equipment and perform simple electrophysiological experiments

Lab reports
Assessment Type 1: Lab report
Indicative Time on Task 2: 18 hours
Due: Dates for lab reports in iLearn
Weighting: 20%

You will prepare and submit lab reports based on lab activities that involve collection and analysis of neurophysiological data. These assessments link with lectures and other information sources and test your knowledge of the relevant neural systems.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Explain how neural signals are generated, transmitted and processed in different parts of the nervous system
• Understand how the nervous and endocrine systems interact
• Synthesise information taken from the scientific literature about the nervous system and present it to your peers in a concise format
• Assemble basic electrophysiology recording equipment and perform simple electrophysiological experiments
• Analyse and interpret the results of simple tests of neural function on human and/or invertebrate animal subjects

1 If you need help with your assignment, please contact:
• the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
• the Learning Skills Unit for academic skills support.

2 Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources
There will be two lectures each week. No in-person lectures for this unit. Each week’s lectures will be made available through Echo.

Practical classes for all students will be taught face-to-face and will be on campus. For external
(infrequent attendance) students practicals are blocked across the 12th and 13th of April (a Monday and Tuesday) and across the 15th and 16th of May (a Saturday and Sunday).

**Recommended text:**


The 5th Edition is also suitable. Available electronically through the 'Unit readings - Leganto’ Block in iLearn.

**iLearn**

Your iLearn site will contain everything you need for this course, including discussion forums and class announcements. You should check this site regularly. You should also check your university email regularly for important announcements.

**Past exam papers, and the final exam in 2021**

At the moment we expect the final exam to be a paper exam held on campus during the exam block and invigilated.

The final exam will be an invigilated exam held during the Semester 1 Exam Period. The exam will use a mixture of quiz questions, multiple choice and short answer questions to evaluate your understanding of neurophysiological concepts presented in lectures and lab classes throughout the unit.

To help you prepare for the final exam you may wish to look at past exam papers. These can be accessed from the library using this link.


Note that the structure of the exam in 2021 will be similar to, but not identical to previous years.

**Unit Schedule**

All lectures will be available as recordings in Echo. There will be no face-to-face lectures this year.

Practical classes will be on campus in labs 102, 105 and 110 of 4WW in two blocks. These are April 12 and 13 and May 15 and 16.

**Lecture and practical timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week begins</th>
<th>Lectures (available on echo)</th>
<th>Practical classes (room 102, 105, 110 4WW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/139770/unit_guide/print
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Practical Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>L1 - Nervous System Overview I</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>L2 - Nervous System Overview II</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>L3 - Resting Membrane Potential</td>
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<td>L4 - Receptors and graded potentials</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>L5 - Action potentials and nerve conduction</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>L6 - Introduction to electrophysiology</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>L7 - Neuronal communication I</td>
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<td>L8 - Neuronal communication II</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>L9 - Principles of sensory physiology</td>
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<td>L10 - Somatosensory system</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>29 March</td>
<td>L11 - Pain</td>
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<td>L12 - Special senses - Olfaction and Gustation</td>
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<td><strong>MIDSEMESTER BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>L13 - Special senses - Hearing</td>
<td>External students practicals April 12 and 13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>L14 - Special senses - Vestibular system</td>
<td>Comparative functional anatomy</td>
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<td>Action potentials (lab report assessment)</td>
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<td>Neuropharmacology (lab report assessment)</td>
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<td>Somatosensory practical and worm nerve conduction demonstration</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>26 April</td>
<td>L15 - Special Senses – Vision I</td>
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<td>L16 – Special Senses – Vision II</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>L17 – Skeletal muscle</td>
<td>No practical activity. Mid-semester test (delivered as an at home online quiz)</td>
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<td>L18 – Smooth and cardiac muscle</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>L19 – Motor control I</td>
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<td>L20 - Motor control II</td>
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<td>External student practicals May 15 and 16</td>
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<td>Sensory thresholds (lab report assessment)</td>
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<td>Vision practical and student presentations</td>
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<td>Reflexes</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Autonomic system</td>
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Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy (Note: The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be
made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment
- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes since First Published

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03/02/2021</td>
<td>Linked to SC offering</td>
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