



COGS1000

Introduction to Neuroscience 1

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024

School of Psychological Sciences

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Disclaimer

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General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit forms a 2-unit sequence with COGS1005 and provides an intensive introduction to the fundamentals of modern neuroscience, with a focus on the structure and function of the human brain. Topics include neuroanatomy, neural signalling, sensory processing, neural control of movement, and higher cognitive functions. Practicals include hands-on research activities in which students will have the opportunity to act as both researchers and experimental participants.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

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

ULO1: Explain key terminology and basic principles of neuroscience.

ULO2: Describe the basic structure and function of the central nervous system with an emphasis on the human brain.

ULO3: Understand the core methods employed in neuroscience.

ULO4: Analyse and interpret scientific information and research in neuroscience.

ULO5: Demonstrate and apply basic experimental research skills to test hypotheses in neuroscience.

General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#) (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40

>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0
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For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Weekly Online Quizzes</u>	10%	No	Weekly
<u>In-Class Lab Activity Sheets</u>	15%	No	Weeks 2,3,4,6,8,10,11
<u>Mid-Term Exam</u>	25%	No	Week 7
<u>Final Exam</u>	50%	No	Official Final Exam Period

Weekly Online Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

Short online multiple quizzes covering basic content completed before each class lecture. Designed to provide routine assessment and feedback. Graded on C/NC basis with 50% correct threshold for C. 10 quizzes in total; 10-20 MC questions; no make-up quizzes; students may drop 2 lowest quizzes without penalty.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain key terminology and basic principles of neuroscience.
- Describe the basic structure and function of the central nervous system with an emphasis on the human brain.

In-Class Lab Activity Sheets

Assessment Type ¹: Lab report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 6 hours

Due: **Weeks 2,3,4,6,8,10,11**

Weighting: **15%**

Short (1-2 page), highly structured lab activity sheets. 1 activity sheet per lab. Graded on C/NC basis. Students may miss 1 lab activity without penalty.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain key terminology and basic principles of neuroscience.
- Describe the basic structure and function of the central nervous system with an emphasis on the human brain.
- Understand the core methods employed in neuroscience.
- Analyse and interpret scientific information and research in neuroscience.
- Demonstrate and apply basic experimental research skills to test hypotheses in neuroscience.

Mid-Term Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **25%**

1 hr multiple choice exam.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain key terminology and basic principles of neuroscience.
- Describe the basic structure and function of the central nervous system with an emphasis on the human brain.

Final Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **Official Final Exam Period**

Weighting: **50%**

2 hr exam, conducted during the official exam period. Combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain key terminology and basic principles of neuroscience.
- Describe the basic structure and function of the central nervous system with an emphasis on the human brain.
- Understand the core methods employed in neuroscience.
- Analyse and interpret scientific information and research in neuroscience.

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 [Writing Centre](#) 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

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of face-to-face and online learning activities, including readings, lectures, etc. Details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

Readings

Purves D. et al. (Eds.) (2017) NEUROSCIENCE, 6th edition. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. The hardcover version is available for purchase through [Booktopia](#) or you can rent the digital eBook from [Oxford University Press](#). In addition, a number of copies of the hardcover textbook will be on reserve at the Macquarie University Library.

iLearn

You will need access to the internet to access the unit's iLearn page. Through iLearn you will be able to access the lecture recordings (Echo360), additional readings, and feedback and marks for the assessment tasks. You are also required to submit assessment tasks via iLearn, using the Turnitin submission tool. Please allow time to familiarise yourself with how to access [iLearn](#). For further information, visit the [iLearn student support page](#).

Lectures

All lectures will be delivered face-to-face in **27 Wally's Walk (Lotus Theatre)**, starting in Week 1. The officially scheduled lecture time is **Wed 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**. Although attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, all lectures will be recorded and made available for asynchronous viewing through Echo360. Lecture slides will be uploaded to iLearn just before the lecture time under the lecture link in the relevant week below.

Due to space constraints in Lotus Theatre, not everyone can enrol to attend lectures in person. (This is why there are two different lecture delivery modes that you can select from when you

enrol.) Because seating capacity is limited, if you are enrolled to attend lectures in person, you are expected to show up to the lectures. If you are enrolled to attend in person, but have no intention of attending in person, please unenrol and re-enrol in online (livestream) lecture delivery mode. This will allow someone else to enrol to attend lectures in person.

Tutorials

All tutorials will be delivered face-to-face in starting in Week 1. Please check eStudent for the time and location of your tutorial. Changes to tutorials need to be made online via eStudent only (neither the unit convenor nor the tutor can make changes to your tutorial enrolment). After week 2, no further changes will be allowed unless supporting documentation about the reason for changing is provided and there is space in the tutorial you wish to enrol in.

Face-to-face tutorials are an essential part of COGS1000 and these cannot be delivered online. All students are therefore expected to come to campus to participate in tutorials and, for some weeks, complete the associated in-class assessment tasks. If you are unable to attend a tutorial with an in-class assessment task due to unavoidable reasons (quarantine, illness, etc.), you should apply for Special Consideration through [AskMQ](#). Reasonable adjustments will be made for students with approved Special Consideration. You do not need to apply for Special Consideration if you miss a tutorial that does not have an in-class assessment task.

Weekly Online Quizzes

This unit has weekly online quizzes designed to keep you on track during the fast-paced semester. Quizzes will be graded either as full credit or no credit; no partial credit will be given. To receive full credit on a quiz, you must correctly answer at least 50% of the multiple-choice questions. If you correctly answer less than 50% of the questions, you will receive no credit for that quiz. No make-up quizzes will be permitted (with the exception of officially approved Special Consideration requests). However, your 2 lowest quizzes will be dropped at the end of the semester.

As indicated above, quizzes must be completed online each week **prior to the lecture**. Each quiz will be open until **11:55 PM**, the night before the relevant lecture. Only quizzes completed before this deadline will be recorded. These quizzes are open book, and you may take each quiz multiple times before the deadline, but only the first submitted attempt for each quiz will be counted. You will receive feedback as to your correct and incorrect answers at the completion of each quiz. There are no quizzes during the week of the mid-term exam (Week 7), the mid-session break, and the final exam review session (Week 13).

The quizzes are delivered through iLearn, so you need to have access to a reliable computer with connection to the Internet. Technical difficulties will not be accepted as a reason for special consideration.

Requests for extensions, medical leave, and/or special consideration

Please note that it is the student's responsibility to notify the University of a disruption to their studies. All requests for extensions, medical leave and/or special consideration should be made prior to the due date for the assignment, are to be made directly via the University's

online [Ask MQ](#) system. Guidelines for Special Consideration can be found [here](#).

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

If you are unsure about which activities count as violations of the policy, please see this [list](#) of "unacceptable academic activities". All forms of cheating including "contract cheating" are strongly prohibited and serious penalties will apply. In addition, the following behaviours

associated with contract cheating also violate the University's Academic Integrity Policy. In some cases, these behaviours might also be against the law.

- Uploading University-copyrighted teaching materials such as unit of study outlines, lecture slides and assignment questions to 'study notes' sharing websites.
- Selling University-copyrighted teaching materials to private tutoring or ghostwriting companies, or sharing these materials on social media platforms.
- Sharing or discussing information about the content of an exam (including exam questions and answers) with others including on social media platforms.

To learn more about contract cheating, we strongly recommend you complete the [*Cheating is Never the Right Answer* module](#) . Contract cheating is a big business in Australia and globally. Unfortunately, many students are targeted by these companies, offering “study support” that results in outsourcing their assessments, copywrite-protected lectures, etc.

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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 Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault

- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

Inclusion and Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

Professionalism

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all

learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
13/02/2024	Additional staff contact information

Unit information based on version 2024.01R of the [Handbook](#)