

Anatomy & Cell Biology

ANATCELL4452B Neurobiology of Mental Illness

Course outline for Winter 2025



Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

1. Technical Requirements



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam

2. Course Overview and Important Dates

Requisites:

Prerequisite(s): a minimum mark of 70% in one of the following: Anatomy and Cell Biology 3200A/B, Neuroscience 2000, or the former Anatomy and Cell Biology 3319.

Senate regulation regarding the student's responsibility regarding requisites: If you do not have the prerequisites or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in the course, you may 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 if you are dropped from the course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites or special permission.

Course Description: An introduction to common mental health disorders focusing on anatomical, clinical, biological, genetic and epidemiological aspects of psychiatric disorders including schizophrenia, addiction, depression, phobias, panic/anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, OCD, paranoia and autism.

	Delivery	Date	Time
Lecture			
Tutorial, Debate etc.			

If you need technical assistance, support is available on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, you can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can also be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers for optimal use of OWL. Be sure you are using the latest version of the browser.

Classes and tutorials are not recorded; no virtual recordings are available to students enrolled in the course should they miss a lecture or tutorial.

Important Dates to Remember:

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day	Exam Period
January 8 th	February 17-25 th	April 8 th	April 9-10 th	April 11-30 th

*March 7th, 2025: Last day to drop a second-term half course or a second-term full course without penalty

2. Instructor Information

Instructors/Teaching Assistant	Email	Contact Information
Jibrán Khokhar (Course Coordinator)	jibran.khokhar@schulich.uwo.ca	Email or appointment.
Jamie Fournier	jfourn6@uwo.ca	Email or appointment.
Walter Rushlow	wrushlow@uwo.ca	Email or appointment.

3. Course Content and Schedule

The first three lectures of the course will focus on the history of biological psychiatry, the fundamentals of mental health research and basic neurobiology. The remainder of the lectures will focus on a wide range of common mental health conditions such as mood disorders, schizophrenia and addiction. The tutorials will provide important course information, a forum for the debates and an opportunity to hear from speakers with relevant life experience.

Date	Topic	Instructor
Lecture	Course Introduction and History of Mental Disorders	
Tutorial	<i>Overview of the Course and Evaluations</i>	
Lecture	Fundamentals of Neuropsychiatric Research	
Tutorial	<i>Debate Team Breakout</i>	
Lecture	Neurobiology of Mental Illness	
Debate	<i>Debate Week 1 (Teams 1 & 2)</i>	
Lecture	Anxiety (Phobias, OCD, PTSD and Panic Disorder)	
Debate	<i>Debate Week 2 (Teams 2 & 3)</i>	
Lecture	Autism Spectrum Disorders	
Debate	<i>Debate Week 3 (Teams 3 & 4)</i>	

Lecture	Co-occurring Disorders	
Guest	<i>Dr. Ahmed Hankir</i>	
Lecture	Schizophrenia (Overview and Neurobiology of Schizophrenia)	
Test	<i>Midterm Test</i>	
Lecture	Schizophrenia (Comorbidity, Treatment and Outcomes)	
Guest	<i>Dr. Alexandra Levine.</i>	
Lecture	Addiction (Neurobiology of Addiction and Nicotine)	
Assignment	<i>Press Release Due</i>	
Lecture	Addiction (Psychostimulants, Alcohol, Narcotics and Cannabinoids)	
Guest	<i>Considering Graduate School?</i>	
Lecture	Mood Disorders (Overview and Neurobiology)	
Guest	<i>Dr. Rohit Lodhi</i>	
Lecture	Mood Disorders (Neurobiology, Treatment and Outcomes)	
Guest	<i>Dr. Ahmed Jakda (Virtual 12pm-1)</i>	
Assignment	<i>Reflection Due</i>	
TBD Exam	<i>Final Exam</i>	

4. Evaluations

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Attendance and Participation ¹	Tutorial Sessions	5%	
Debate ²	PowerPoint or any other presentation software Independent Assignment	15%	
Press Release ³	Software package of student's choosing. Independent Assignment	15%	
Midterm Test ⁴	Short Essays	25%	
Reflection ⁵	YouTube Video Independent Assignment	10%	
Final Exam ⁴	Short Essays	30%	TBD

¹Attendance and participation is expected at all tutorial sessions and will be monitored. Students that are more than 15 minutes late will be marked absent for the day. If a student fails to attend the guest lectures, they will receive a 0 on the reflection assignment.

²Students will engage in a debate based on current clinical and/or publicly relevant mental health topics. Students will be randomly assigned to debate teams (3-6 students/team) and are expected to ensure that members of the team work together in a co-operative and professional manner to complete the assignment. In general, all members of the team will receive the same grade. However, a student might not receive the same debate grade as their group members if it is determined that the distribution of work was not equal.

³Select a recent publication of interest from the literature (2024-2025) and prepare a press release (newspaper or magazine format). The press release must be in lay language, provide a synopsis and critique of the paper as well as any potential impact to the reader. The press release can include pictures but must not exceed 500 words (excluding captions). The selected paper for review should include a biological component and not be a review, case study or meta-analysis.

⁴The Midterm Test and Final Exam are short essay style questions.

⁵Prepare a short YouTube video based on one of the guest speakers. The video should be a reflection on how the lived experience of the guest speaker has helped provide context for the material covered in class. The video should be relevant to lay audiences while maintaining scientific accuracy.

NOTE: Additional information concerning the test and exam, assignments, and academic integrity will be provided during the tutorial sessions as outlined in the syllabus. Lectures and tutorials are not/will not be recorded.

Western Grade Expectations:

90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
below 50	Fail

Additional Notes:

- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to consider the grade before contacting their evaluator. To ensure a timely response, contact the instructor and/or teaching assistant within 7 days.
- Any grade appeals on assessments must be received within 3 weeks of the mark being posted.
- Missed or late assessments without an approved academic consideration request from academic counselling will receive a 0.
- One make-up opportunity will be offered for all assessments if an academic consideration request is received from academic counselling. Additional make-up opportunities (with an approved academic consideration request) will not be available until the next time the course is offered.

INC (Incomplete Standing): If a student has been approved by the Academic Counselling Office (in consultation with the instructor/department) to complete term work at a later date, an INC will be assigned. Students with INC will have their course load in subsequent terms reduced to allow them to complete outstanding course work. Students may request permission from Academic Counselling to carry a full course load for the term the incomplete course work is scheduled.

SPC (Special examination): If a student has been approved by the Academic Counselling Office to write a Special Examination and the final exam is the only outstanding course component, an SPC will be assigned. If the class has a makeup exam, the student is expected to write the makeup

exam. If the class doesn't have a makeup exam or the student misses the makeup exam for reasons approved by the Academic Counselling Office, the student will write the exam the next time the course is offered. Outstanding SPCs will reduce the course load for the term the exam is deferred as outlined in Types of Examinations policy

5. Western Academic Policies and Statements

Absence from Course Commitments

A. Absence for medical illness:

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Accommodation for Illness Policy](#).

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to Academic Counselling as soon as possible and contact your instructor immediately. It is the student's responsibility to make alternative arrangements with their instructor once the accommodation has been approved and the instructor has been informed. Please note that the format of a make-up test, exam, or assignment is at the discretion of the course coordinator.

A student requiring academic consideration due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate when visiting an off-campus medical facility or request a Record's Release Form (located in the Dean's Office) for visits to Student Health Services. The form can be found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

B. Absence for non-medical reasons:

Student absences might also be approved for non-medical reasons such as religious holidays and compassionate situations. Please review the policy on [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). All non-medical requests must be processed by Academic Counselling. Not all absences will be approved; pay attention to the academic calendar and final exam period when booking any trips.

C. Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

Academic Offenses

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](#) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

Discovery Credit Statement

Students are permitted to designate up to 1.0 Discovery Credit course (or equivalent) for pass/fail grading that can be counted toward the overall course credits required for their degree program. The details of this policy and the deadlines can be found [here](#).

Turnitin and other similarity review software

All assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. Students will be able to view their results before the final submission. 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 Western University and [Turnitin.com](#).

6. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy (for in-person tests and exams)

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is committed to ensuring that testing and evaluation are undertaken fairly across all our departments and programs. For all tests and exams, it is the policy of the School that any electronic devices, i.e., cell phones, tablets, cameras, or iPod are strictly prohibited. These devices **MUST** be left either at home or with the student's bag/jacket at the front of the room and **MUST NOT** be at the test/exam desk or in the individual's pocket. Any student found with one of these prohibited devices will receive a grade of zero on the test or exam. Non-programmable calculators are only allowed when indicated by the instructor. The program is not responsible for stolen/lost or broken devices.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Tutorial sessions will not be recorded or distributed by the instructors. Students are likewise expected to refrain from recording, distributing or disrupting tutorial sessions. Lecture recordings and notes, test, exam and assignment materials contained in this course are the copyrighted property of the course coordinators. Recording and/or distribution of course materials/lectures is not permitted without the written consent of the course coordinators. This includes posting course materials and/or modified class notes, or ANY information related to the content of course quizzes, assignments tests or exams on public (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) or pay sites such as "OneClass", "Quizlet" or any other similar website. Furthermore, sharing confidential information relating to test/exam/assignments is considered an academic offense, entailing serious consequences. Please note that we regularly monitor these sites to ensure that course material and/or confidential evaluation or assignments material has not been posted without our explicit authorization. In addition, unauthorized posting of any such course materials under an anonymous pseudonym will not prevent your identity being revealed should legal action be taken against the owners/proprietors of such web pages for copyright infringements.

Rounding of Marks Statement

Across the Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. *Final grades* on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks WILL NOT be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will NOT be bumped up to an 80, an 84 WILL NOT be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark “bumping” will be denied.

7. Support Services

The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

[Academic Counselling \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)

[Appeal Procedures](#)

[Registrarial Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)