

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology PHYS 2130-Introduction to Human Physiology

Course Syllabus for Fall 2024/Winter 2025



Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**; therefore, your health and wellness matter to us! The following link provides information about the resources available on and off campus to support students: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> Your course coordinator can also **guide you** to resources and/or services should you need them.

1. Technical Requirements:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer

2. Important Dates:



Classes Begin	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 5	October 14–20	December 6	December 7–8	December 9–22

September 30, 2024, is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and is a non-instructional day
December 2, 2024: Last day to withdraw from a full course without academic penalty

Classes Resume	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 6	February 17–23	April 4	April 5–6	April 7–30

3. Contact Information

Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Dr. Pierre Thibeault	pthibeau@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information
Bavina Fatima Thirunavukarasu	Discussion Forums/Office Hours
Nicholas Hamati	Discussion Forums/Office Hours
Teija Mackenzie Ingram	Discussion Forums/Office Hours

4. Course Description and Design

Delivery Mode: Online

A survey course outlining the principles of human/mammalian physiology: general properties of the living cell and internal environment; neural, muscle, cardiovascular, respiratory, gastro-intestinal, renal, and endocrine systems; metabolism, reproduction, and homeostasis.

Antirequisite(s): [Physiology 1020](#), [Physiology 1021](#), [Physiology 3120](#), [Physiology and Pharmacology 2000](#).

Prerequisite(s): First-year courses in Biology and Chemistry are recommended.

Extra Information: Online virtual asynchronous lectures, online (Zoom) office hours, IN PERSON examinations

Timetabled Sessions

Component	Date(s)	Time
Virtual Asynchronous	N/A	5-7 hours weekly

- Asynchronous lessons to be completed by the student
- Closed captioning will be provided on audio or video recordings

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>. Any changes will be indicated on the course site and discussed with the class.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the functions of the nervous, sensory, endocrine, muscular, cardiovascular, renal, respiratory, gastrointestinal, and reproductive systems of the human body at the organ and cellular level
- Predict how these organs and organ systems will respond to a problem or pathology/disease to maintain homeostasis
- Integrate information from lectures to identify how organs and organ systems work together to maintain health and homeostasis

There are a few general objectives that you should always keep in mind as you study. You will be expected to be able to recall or recognize facts, concepts, or physiological principles. The ability to recall, however, is not so useful unless you can do something with the information that you have learned. Therefore, you should also be able to use your knowledge to explain physiological function.

6. Course Content and Schedule

Fall Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic
1	Sept 5–8	Unit 1 - Introduction to Human Physiology
2	Sept 9–15	Unit 2 - Nerves, Muscles, & the Nervous System
3	Sept 16–22	Unit 2 - Nerves, Muscles, & the Nervous System
4	Sept 23–29	Unit 2 - Nerves, Muscles, & the Nervous System
5	Oct 1–Oct 6	Unit 2 - Nerves, Muscles, & the Nervous System
6	Oct 7–13	Unit 3 - The Sensory System
7	Oct 14–20	Fall Reading Week
8	Oct 21–Oct 27	Unit 3 - The Sensory System
9	Oct 28–Nov 3	Unit 4 - The Cardiovascular System
10	Nov 4–10	Unit 4 - The Cardiovascular System
11	Nov 11–17	Unit 4 - The Cardiovascular System
12	Nov 18–24	Unit 5 - The Renal System
13	Nov 25–Dec 1	Unit 5 - The Renal System
14	Dec 2–6	Study days

Winter Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic
15	Jan 6–12	Unit 5 - The Renal System
16	Jan 13–19	Unit 6 - The Respiratory System
17	Jan 20–26	Unit 6 - The Respiratory System
18	Jan 27–Feb 2	Unit 6 - The Respiratory System
19	Feb 3–9	Unit 7 - The Endocrine System
20	Feb 10–16	Unit 7 - The Endocrine System
21	Feb 17–23	Spring Reading Week
22	Feb 24–Mar 2	Unit 8 - The Reproductive System
23	Mar 3–9	Unit 8 - The Reproductive System
24	Mar 10–16	Unit 9 - The Digestive System & Metabolism
25	Mar 17–23	Unit 9 - The Digestive System & Metabolism
26	Mar 24–30	Unit 9 - The Digestive System & Metabolism
27	Mar 31–Apr 6	Study days

7. Participation and Engagement

- Students are encouraged to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can participate by interacting in the discussion forums with their peers and instructors and during test review sessions

8. Assessment and Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Important Dates	Flexibility
Case study #1 Quiz	Online quiz	10%	Instructions: September 24 Available: October 1 Due: October 4	Instructions: Case studies instructions will be available 1 week before the quiz, beginning at 9:00 AM (ET) on the date listed. Available: Case study quizzes are available at 9:00 AM (ET) on the date listed as "Available" and available for 72 hours. Students will have two permitted submissions and the highest scoring will be recorded. Due: Case study quizzes are due at 9:00 AM on the date listed "Due". The lowest grade of four quizzes will be dropped.
Case study #2 Quiz	Online quiz		Instructions: November 4 Available: November 11 Due: November 14	
Case study #3 Quiz	Online quiz		Instructions: January 13 Available: January 20 Due: January 23	
Case study #4 Quiz	Online quiz		Instructions: March 3 Available: March 10 Due: March 13	
Test #1	In person	18%	October 26* (1.5 hours)	Not applicable
Midterm exam	In person (Fall Cumulative)	24%	Dec. 9-22 exam period (2 hours)	Not applicable
Test #2	In person	18%	February 8* (1.5 hours)	Not applicable
Final exam	In person (Full-Year Cumulative)	30%	April 7-30 exam period (2.5 hours)	Not applicable

*Tentative as of August 1, 2024

Designated Assessment: Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. See below for information on academic consideration policy and missed course work. One examination per term has been designated as requiring supporting documentation. The following assessments have been designated as requiring supporting documentation:

- Test #1 (Fall Term) October 26th (Tentatively)
- Test #2 (Winter Term) February 8th (Tentatively)

General information about assessments

- All examinations are SYNCHRONOUS and IN PERSON
- All examinations will be comprised of multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions.
- Makeup examinations will be in a format of my choosing, which may include short answer and essay style questions.
- The midterm and final exams will be CUMULATIVE; however, the largest component of these exams will evaluate untested materials.
- Students WILL be permitted to use a non-programmable calculator during tests and examinations.
- Examination booklets and bubble sheets will be returned to students in Gradescope for all applicable exams. After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator or requesting a regrade. Regrade requests will be requested and responded to in Gradescope.
- Any grade appeals on examinations MUST be received within 3 weeks of the grade being posted or the date indicated on Brightspace.
- Case studies quizzes will be available for 72 hours and will be completed ONLINE. Students will have 20 minutes (or accommodated) time once started to complete the case study quiz. The case study quiz will be comprised of 10 multiple choice questions taken from the questions provided in the case study instructions. Students are allowed two quiz submissions with the highest scoring submission taken for grading.
- I will take the highest-scoring three out of four case studies for a student’s case study grade (i.e., the lowest of four case study grades will be removed).

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

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

Information about late or missed assessments:

Examinations:

- Missed tests WITHOUT approved documentation will be given a grade of zero.
- Missed tests WITH an approved accommodation will be allowed to take the make-up test. Only ONE make-up test will be offered per scheduled test.
- If a make-up test is missed WITHOUT approved documentation, then the student will receive a zero on the test.
- If a make-up test is missed WITH approved documentation, the weight of the test will be transferred to the final exam. This can only occur for ONE test. If a student misses more than

one test, then the student will receive an INC, will not be permitted to write the final exam, and will need to complete the missed test/exams in the next course offering.

- Students MUST complete at least two quizzes, the Final Exam, and at least TWO of: Test #1, Midterm, or Test #2 to pass the course; otherwise, the course will be marked as “INC” (see below) and assessments must be taken in the next offering of the course.
- All examination accommodation requests MUST be submitted to the student’s academic advising office.** **Please note all examinations in this course require supporting documentation to be provided to your advisor – see “Designated Assessment” policy on page 4**.

Quizzes:

- If a case study quiz is missed, then the student will receive a zero on the case study.
- Quizzes are designed with flexibility (open for 72 hours, two submissions allowed, and the lowest of the four cases study quizzes dropped from your quiz grade), therefore these are unavailable for accommodation for late submission. Please see the policy in section 14. A) of the syllabus (page 9).

INC (Incomplete Standing): If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising 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 Advising 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 Advising 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 Advising 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.

9. Communication

- Students should check the OWL Brightspace site every 24–48 hours
- Students should contact their instructor using email.
- Emails will be monitored daily during weekdays; students will receive a response in 24–48 hours
- This course will use discussions on Brightspace for course content and delivery questions.
- Students should post all course-related queries on the discussion forum so that everyone can access the questions and responses
- Students are requested to enable notifications of announcements for this course.

10. Office Hours

- Office hours will be held weekly and remotely using Zoom with our teaching assistants.
- Office hours will be hosted individually. Please wait in the waiting room to be admitted.

11. Resources

- All resources will be posted in OWL Brightspace
- There is NO required textbook for this course

12. Professionalism & Privacy

Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared (e.g., Must Knows Facebook group, Course Hero, Chegg, etc.)
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments

Western is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. All **students**, staff, and faculty have a role in this commitment and have a responsibility to ensure and promote a safe and respectful learning and working environment. Relevant policies include Western's [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35) and [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy – Administrative Procedures](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35). Any **student**, staff, or faculty member who experiences or witnesses' behaviour that may be harassment or discrimination **report the behaviour** to the Western's [Human Rights Office](#). Harassment and discrimination can be human rights-based, which is also known as EDI-based, (sexism, racism, transphobia, homophobia, islamophobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, and ableism) or non-human rights-based (personal harassment or workplace harassment).

13. How to Be Successful in this Class

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule your time throughout the course.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL Brightspace to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow checklists created on OWL Brightspace or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor by email or teaching assistants in office hours.
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

14. Western Academic Policies and Statements

A. Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on [Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the [central academic consideration portal](#). Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term **without** supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g., December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests (typically scheduled during the last week of the term).

Students should also note that the instructor may **designate** one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Academic consideration requests may be denied when flexibility in assessment has already been included. Examples of flexibility in assessment include when there are assessments not required for calculation of the final grade (e.g. 8 out of 10 quizzes) or there is flexibility in the submission timeframe (e.g. 72 hour no late penalty period).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course syllabus. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

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](#).

B. 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.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

C. 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](#)

D. 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](#).

E. 15% Rule

According to the [Evaluation of Academic Performance](#) policy, at least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. Generally, students can expect some form of feedback on their performance in a course before the drop date. In rare instances, at the Dean's discretion, an exemption can be issued, which also must be noted in the course syllabus. Deans should review exemptions on a course-by-course basis each time an exempted course is offered.

15. 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, e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glasses, smart watch 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

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

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., 74.45 becomes 74, and 74.50 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.

16. Support Services

- Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @Western Health <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
- To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.
- Other important links:
 - [Academic Advising \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)
 - [Appeal Procedures](#)
 - [Registrarial Services](#)

- [Student Development Services](#)
- [Student Health Services](#)

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

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.