

The Department of Physiology and Pharmacology
Neuropharmacology 4380B



Although this academic year might be different, 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 (suggested)

2. Course Overview and Important Dates:



Delivery Mode	Dates & Location	Time
Virtual synchronous*	Tuesdays	12:30 – 2:30

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 4

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day	Exam Period
January 11	February 13 - 21	April 12	April 13	April 14 - 30

*March 14, 2021: Last day to drop a second-term half course or a second-term full course without penalty

3. Contact Information



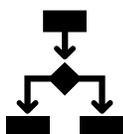
Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Vania Prado	vprado@uwo.ca

Instructor	Contact Information
Vania Prado	vprado@uwo.ca
Taylor Schmitz	tschmitz@uwo.ca

4. Course Description and Design

This course will cover the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying the actions of drugs on the central and peripheral nervous systems. Lectures will focus on recent developments in the field of neuroscience and their impact on our understanding of the actions, and development of, new drugs.

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Synchronous Online	Tuesday	12:30-2:30	Weekly
Pre-recorded lectures	Watch for Feb 9th	N/A	Weekly



- Attendance at synchronous sessions is required
- Missed work should be completed within 24 hours
- A recording will be provided for synchronous sessions

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

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

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL. Please update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

5. Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify critical aspects from research articles through virtual presentation and discussion as well as through independent written report.
- Identify and describe different types of genetically modified mouse models (transgenics, knock-outs, knock-ins) as well as different methodologies available to modulate neurotransmission (optogenetics, chemogenetics, etc) and their use on better understanding neurological diseases.
- Describe cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying diseases of the nervous system such as depression, Schizophrenia, Alzheimer disease, Parkinson disease, and mechanism of action of drugs used in the treatment.



6. Course Content and Schedule



Week	Dates	Topic	Mode	Instructor
1	Jan 12	Introduction to the course- Neurotransmission	Synchronous Online	V. Prado
2	Jan 19	Cholinergic transmission – Alzheimer’s Disease	Synchronous Online	V. Prado
3	Jan 26	*Paper #1 neurotransmission	Synchronous Online	V. Prado
4	Feb 02	*Paper #2 Alzheimer’s	Synchronous Online	V. Prado
5	Feb 09	**Clinical trial presentations – pre-recorded and watch prior to class	Synchronous Online	V. Prado
6	Feb 15 – 21	Reading Week	N/A	N/A
7	Feb 23	Midterm exam	Virtual synchronous	V. Prado
8	Mar 02	Dopaminergic transmission Parkinson’s Disease	Synchronous Online	V. Prado
9	Mar 09	*Paper#3 Parkinson’s	Synchronous Online	V. Prado
10	Mar 16	Depression and its pharmacological management	Synchronous Online	Schmitz
11	Mar 23	*Paper #4 Depression	Synchronous Online	Schmitz
12	Mar 30	Schizophrenia and its pharmacological management	Synchronous Online	Schmitz
13	Apr 6	*Paper#5 –Schizophrenia	Synchronous Online	Schmitz
14	Apr 14-30 (T.B.D.)	Final exam	Virtual synchronous	V. Prado

*Student groups may elect to pre-record their paper presentation assignment or present live during the Synchronous class time. Each group will inform the Course Manager a week prior to the mode of presentation. If pre-recording, students will need to post their MP4 within the weekly lecture page, during the week assigned the evening before class. If pre-recorded, class will watch the presentation together during the zoom class time. If given live, student presenters should be well organized to share their slides and take turns presenting in the Zoom class link. Live discussion will follow with either presenter mode (Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:30pm - considering that the first 30 min will be used to watch the recorded or live presentation).

**The clinical trial presentations will all be pre-recorded by student groups and posted to the OWL site before 6 PM on Sunday, February 7th. All students are expected to watch each presentation before the synchronous class time. Discussions and Q&A will occur during class time.

7. Online Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can participate during in person sessions or post on OWL forums after watching the recording
- Students can also participate by interacting in the forums with their peers and instructors

8. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting
Paper presentation	Virtual	25%
Clinical trial presentation	Virtual	15%
Midterm test	online	25%
Final exam	online	35%

- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

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 evaluations:

- Late assessments without a self-reported absence and submitted documentation will be subject to a late penalty 10 %/day
- Late assessments with a self-reported absence should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the self-report
- The weight of a missed test will be transferred to the final exam.
- If a make-up assessment is missed, the student will receive an INC and complete the task the next time the course is offered

9. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- Students should email their instructor(s).
- This course will use Zoom for discussions.
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored every 24-72 hours by instructors

10. Office Hours:



- Office hours will be held on Wednesdays from 3-4pm remotely using Zoom
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment using OWL (Sign Up on OWL)
- Group office hours will be held, recorded, and posted for everyone to view

11. Resources



- All resources will be posted in OWL

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:



- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL
- 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
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed

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 time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. 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.
4. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
5. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online

- discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
- 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

Absence from Course Commitments

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#)

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must seek approval for the absence as soon as possible. Approval can be granted either through a **self-reported absence** or via the **Academic Counselling** unit. Students have two self-reports to use throughout the academic year; absence from course commitments including tests, quizzes, presentations, labs, and assignments that are worth 30% or less can be self-reported. Self-reported absences cover a student for 48 hours (yesterday + today or today + tomorrow). Your instructor will receive notification of your consideration; however, you should contact your instructor immediately regarding your absence. Students are expected to submit missed work within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period. Please review details of the [university's policy on academic consideration for student absences](#).

If you have used both their self-reported absences or will miss more than 48 hours of course requirements, a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) should be signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner and you should contact academic counselling. Academic Counselling will be operating virtually this year and can be contacted at scibmsac@uwo.ca.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed [here](#).

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 Offences

"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](#).

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.

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, 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

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., 74.4 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.

16. Support Services

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

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

[Appeal Procedures](#)

[Registrarial Services](#)

Student Development Services

Student Health Services