Course title	**Biological Basis of Behaviour**				
Course code	**PSY2301**				
Course type	Compulsory				
Level	Bachelors				
Year / Semester	Year 2 / 3rd Semester				
Teacher's name	Dr Florentia Hadjiefthyvoulou				
ECTS	6	**Lectures / week**	3hrs	**Laboratories / week**	-
Course purpose and objectives	This course builds on introductory biological psychology content and explores in greater depth the biological mechanisms that underlie behaviour, emotion, motivation, mental health conditions, genetics and evolution and psychobiology and neuroscience methods. Topics include neural communication, brain plasticity, sensory and motor systems, sleep and biological rhythms, emotion, and the neurobiology of mental health conditions. The course integrates theoretical knowledge with research evidence and applied examples, providing students with a critical understanding of the biological foundations of psychological processes and behaviour.				
Learning outcomes	On successful completion of the course and with further independent study, students will be able to: **Knowledge and Understanding** 1. Describe the anatomy and function of the nervous system and how it relates to behaviour **2.** Explain the biological mechanisms underlying key psychological processes **Competencies** 3. Critically evaluate research methods and findings in behavioural neuroscience 4. Integrate biological evidence with psychological theory to explain behaviour and mental health conditions **Transferable Skills** 5. Interpret and synthesise scientific information from primary literature and biological psychology sources				

	6. Communicate complex biological concepts clearly and accurately in written form		
Prerequisites	PSY1101 Foundations of Brain, Social Psychology and Individual differences	**Required**	
Course content	**Indicative Content** • Neuroanatomy and neurophysiology • Genetics and evolution • Sensory and motor systems • Biological rhythms and sleep • Neural basis of emotion and motivation • Psychobiology of stress • Psychobiology of mental health disorders (e.g. anxiety, depression, and schizophrenia) • Animal models and neuroscience methods • ethical considerations in neuroscience research.		
Teaching methodology	Teaching will consist of lectures, in-class discussions, case studies and quizzes designed to assess understanding and provide opportunities for formative feedback. Teaching will be supported by online materials and additional readings		
Bibliography	**Core Text:** • Pinel, J. P. J., & Barnes, S. J. (2021). *Biopsychology* (11th ed., Global ed.). Pearson. **Recommended:** • Martin, G. N., & Carlson, N. R. (2025). *Psychology* (7th ed.). Pearson. **Further reading:** A reading list will accompany each lecture, highlighting relevant articles accessible through the library, as well as open-access and e-learning resources.		
Assessment	Attendance and participation 10% Essay Assessment (1500 words) 45% Final Exam 45%		

Language	English