



University
of Victoria

**Faculty of Education
School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education**

**Fall 2019
Motor Learning
EPHE 245/A01/11557**

Instructor: Dr. Olav E. Krigolson
Class Location: MCK 150
Class Times: Monday / Thursday 8:30am to 9:50am
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Web Site: <http://www.krigolsonteaching.com/ephe-245.html>

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Calendar Description

Neural and cognitive processes underlying human skilled action and the factors that influence learning and control of these actions. Ways in which the human motor system enables the acquisition and retention of complex movement skills and implications for the design of instructional situations to support retention and optimal performance of skilled actions.

The Relevance and Purpose of EPHE 245

How do we learn? What do we learn? How can we improve learning? The purpose of this course is simple – it is to provide answers to those three questions. I will let you decide the relevance of this course to your own life and future.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Distinguish among the phenomena of motor control, motor performance, motor development, and motor learning.
2. Analyze motor tasks and be able to determine the main demands on the performer from these tasks.
3. Identify and describe the general role of the various neural processes and substrates that control motor learning and performance.
4. Compare the power of various theoretical approaches to explain the processes and outcomes of motor learning and control.
5. Analyze the capabilities and limitations of the human performer to learn and perform skilled actions.
6. Analyze the constraints on performance created by the context in which a motor skill is performed.
7. Analyze motor tasks demands in order to determine optimal practice conditions to facilitate the learning of these skilled motor actions.

8. Apply motor learning concepts and principles to design effective practice/relearning/rehabilitation environments.
9. Apply basic research and statistical principles in the examination of general motor learning and performance phenomena.
10. Write concise research reports that analyze and explain experimental data generated through laboratory examination of motor learning and performance phenomena.

These learning outcomes will be achieved through:

- Consistent participation in class discussion and activities,
- Thorough understanding of the course readings,
- Successful completion of formal and informal course assignments,
- Successful completion of laboratory assignments, and
- Thorough preparation for course examinations.

Text/Reading List

See: <http://www.krigolsonteaching.com/course-readings.html>

Course Format and Structure

This course is designed in three modules – introductory, intermediate, and advanced with three themes in each module: How We Learn, What We Learn, and How Can We Improve Learning.

	Introductory	Intermediate	Advanced
How We Learn	Repetition and Expertise	Reinforcement and Supervised Learning	Hebbian Learning and LTP
	Feedback	Observational Learning and Mirror Neurons	Dopamine
What We Learn	Memory	Motor Schemas	Neural Representations and Primitives
	Motor Programs	Neural Basis of Skills	Forward and Inverse Models
How We Can Improve Learning	Distributed and Random Practice	Specificity of Practice	Sleep
	Constant and Part Practice	Mental Imagery	Aging, Nutrition, and Other Factors

Course Outline

September 5th Introduction

Introductory Material

September 9th Repetition and Expertise
 September 12th Feedback
 September 16th Memory
 September 19th Motor Programs
 September 23rd Distributed and Random Practice
 September 26th Constant and Part Practice
 September 30th MIDTERM ONE

Intermediate Material

October 3rd Reinforcement and Supervised Learning
 October 7th Observational Learning and Mirror Neurons
 October 10th Motor Schemas
 October 14th THANKSGIVING
 October 17th Neural Basis of Motor Skills
 October 21st Lab Data Workshop
 October 24th Lab Data Workshop
 October 28th Specificity of Practice
 October 31st Mental Imagery
 November 4th MIDTERM TWO

Advanced Material

November 7th LTP and Hebbian Learning
 November 11th READING BREAK
 November 14th STUDY DAY
 November 18th Dopamine
 November 21st Neural Representations and Motor Primitives
 November 25th Forward and Inverse Models
 November 28th Sleep
 December 2nd Aging, Nutrition, and Other Factors

December, Exam Period FINAL EXAM

The course instructor reserves the right to make and changes to this course outline and the course content at any time.

Assignments

Due Date	Activity	Details	Grade
Every Day	Quizzes	Each class will start with a short quiz on the assigned readings. There will be 18 quizzes in total worth 15% of your course grade. The quizzes will be graded simply as wrong or right (0 or 1). If you miss a class, there is no chance to redo the quiz. I will count your 15 best quiz scores towards your final grade.	15%
October 4 th	Midterm One	The midterm exam will consist of 6 short answer questions, 1 for each class topic. These questions are already available on my website. For each set of questions (4 per class), the instructor will randomly select 2 of the 4 questions and you will answer 1 of those 2 questions. In line with my course policy on exam redos you will an opportunity to redo this midterm on the final exam.	15%
November 5 th	Midterm Two	The midterm exam will consist of 6 short answer questions, 1 for each class topic. These questions are already available on my website. For each set of questions (4 per class), the instructor will randomly select 2 of the 4 questions and you will answer 1 of those 2 questions. In line with my course policy on exam redos you will an opportunity to redo this midterm on the final exam.	15%
University Exam Period	Final Exam	Your final exam will consist of a single essay question on all of the information covered in class. Thus, the exam is cumulative in nature – you will need to incorporate material from throughout the course to answer the essay questions. The essay question will either be: 1. How do we learn?	40%

		<p>2. What do we learn? 3. How can we improve learning?</p> <p>On the day of the exam I will randomly select one of the three exam questions and you will answer it. Guidance on how to prepare for Exam Three will be provided throughout the course. During the time of the Final Exam, you will also be able to redo either Midterm One, Midterm Two, or both.</p>	
Will be provided by your laboratory instructor.	Laboratory or Practicum	You will have the opportunity between completing a traditional laboratory or organizing your own motor learning practicum. If you choose to complete the laboratory just go to your assigned laboratory section (and only that section!). If you choose to do the practicum see the information on my teaching website and talk to me.	15%
Final Grade			100%
Bonus Points	Extra point activities can be completed to earn additional points. Guidelines for each bonus point activity will be provided with bonus assignments. Bonus points may or may not be awarded dependent on the course instructor's discretion.		

Marking

For detailed grading rubrics for your midterm and final exams please see my teaching website.

Grade Restrictions

To pass this course you must have a passing grade in the laboratory portion of the course. If you fail the laboratory portion of the course, you fail the course as a whole.

Missing / Late Work

Any late work (assignments, labs, etc) will be assigned a grade of zero. No exceptions.

Redo Policy

In this course, you will have the opportunity to redo your class exams. For exams, there is a set redo date (i.e., the Final Exam) when you can attempt to improve your score based on the feedback that is provided to you. You will also be given an additional opportunity to redo Exam One and Two before the Final Exam (late October, late November – exact date TBD). There will also be redo opportunities in the laboratory section of the course. These opportunities will come in the form of being able to show your assignment to the teaching assistant BEFORE it is formally due. It will be up to you to ensure that the teaching assistant has sufficient time to provide feedback.

Missed Exams

Due to the redo policy any missed exams will not be made up. The student will be assigned a grade of zero and will simply have the redo opportunity on the Final Exam unless express approval is given by the course instructor before the scheduled exam date. If a student misses the Final Exam they will be given an opportunity to rewrite the exam in December of 2019. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Grade Scaling

In order to fight grade inflation, the grades of this course may be scaled up or down at the course instructor's discretion. Grade scaling will also apply to the laboratory section of the course.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey you will receive an email inviting you to do so. Please ensure that your current email address is listed in MyPage. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/students/resources/ces/login.php>.

You will need to use your UVic netlink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

Grading Scale

As approved by the University of Victoria Senate effective May 1, 2014, a percentage grade will be assigned for the overall course grade. The university policy regarding grading can be reviewed at: <https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html#> and includes the grading scale:

A+	90-100
A	85 - 89
A-	80 - 84
B+	77 – 79
B	73 – 76
B-	70 - 72
C+	65 – 69
C	60 - 64
D	50 – 59
F	0 - 49

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individual or group work. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust, and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research, and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

The responsibility of the institution

Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

The responsibility of the student

Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or a suspension. It is your responsibility to understand the University's policy on academic integrity:

<https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#>

Diversity Policy

Our Faculty of Education embraces an inclusive learning community that respects and recognizes that we are enriched and strengthened by diversity including, but not limited to, ethnicity and national origins, language, gender and gender identity, sexuality, ability, age, socioeconomic status, and spirituality. We are committed to increasing the participation of people who have been historically and systemically excluded from higher education and welcome all who share this aspiration. We are committed to answering the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. We are a campus that educates for and encourages respect, acceptance of others, inclusion and diversity, with one principal limit: acts that incite hatred, espouse or encourage bigotry, either implied or explicit, will not be tolerated. Please also consult the UVic equity policy: <https://www.uvic.ca/equity/index.php>

Support for Students

- **Centre for Academic Communication (CAC).**

The CAC provides face-to-face and online assistance in reading, writing, speaking, and academic expectations. To find out more and/or to book an appointment, please follow this link <http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php>

- **UVic Counselling Services.**

Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. We offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students. To find out more and/or to book an appointment, please follow this link <http://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/>

- **Indigenous Student Community**

UVic and the Indigenous Faculty, Staff and students continue to work towards creating programming that is inclusive and representative of Indigenous peoples heritage and concerns. If you wish to connect with this community, please consult <http://www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/index.php/students/supports/students/supports/students/students/index.php>

- **Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) (formerly the Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities (RCSD))**

The Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) offers information and support for UVic students with a permanent disability. Students who need classroom accommodations such as alternate text formats, or other on-campus support should contact CAL as soon as confirmation of enrollment is received. If you wish to explore options for accommodation, please consult with CAL which is located in the Campus Services Building. The webpage for this centre is <http://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>

- **Support for International Students**

Please follow this link for programs to support international students. <http://www.uvic.ca/international/>

- **Policy on Academic Integrity**

<https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#>
<https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/grad/academic-regulations/academic-integrity.html#>