BIOL 243/KNPE 251/NURS 323/PSYC 202
– Exam Study Strategies

EXAM FORMAT
• 3 hours, multiple choice and short answer questions based on material from the entire fall term, including all module videos, lectures, module practice problems and elements of tutorials.

HOW TO STUDY
• Use the Learning Outcomes provided at the beginning of each module as the framework for your exam study notes
• If you struggle to understand details of the course, focus your attention on these main objectives before getting lost in data and numbers!
• This is a course that focuses on applying and using, not cramming, knowledge. Aim to know the material in such detail that you can explain/teach equations and concepts to another student with little guidance
• This can be achieved by forming study groups: divide topics up, study for 30-40 minutes, then teach each other each topic. Discuss difficulties or common areas of concern.
• Ensure you understand how to make sense of raw data, how best to describe data to others, and how to solve problems and test predictions using statistics
• PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE!

STUDY HABITS FOR SUCCESS

• Be prepared. Spend some time revising key concepts, but leave time to work on practice exams and questions.
• Seek help early. Give yourself time to work through the main material, and any of the additional resources when you find certain concepts more challenging. If you need additional help, attend the office hours that instructors run each week.
• Make connections through applying the material. Some good strategies to do this are: write a brief set of paragraphs to summarize the material, work in study groups to discuss the ideas, go through the quiz questions with a study partner, and attend office hours.

FINDING PRACTICE QUESTIONS

• Past exams/midterms provided by the professor on OnQ – look for commonalities between exams
• The Queen’s Exam Bank
• Use the Practice Questions from the end of each module
• Review lecture Case Study questions from TopHat
• Use your past term tests to your advantage!
  • Review and correct errors,
  • Revise the concept questions from tutorial by testing yourself on answers without lecture notes
• It’s easy to be overwhelmed by practice questions online. If you find it stresses you out, stick to the course material given to you.

COMMON PITFALLS

• Not going through provided practice questions. Expect similar styles of questions to appear on the exam, so use your time wisely instead of cramming everything.
• Leaving studying to last minute. Give yourself ample time to go through practice exams and questions before returning to notes to brush up on details.
• Memorizing terms but not understanding the concepts they are involved in: if you know a definition but can’t think where or how a concept would be used, then move from memorizing to practicing.

TAKEAWAYS

• Understanding statistics to a greater depth will allow you to apply knowledge of statistics and research design (e.g., sampling) and to critically evaluate research.
• The purpose of this course is to improve your numeracy and critical thinking skills to help you make better decisions in both your personal and professional life. Remember, therefore, that what you’re learning in this course is designed to make you a better student in coming years.
• Understanding how to statistically analyze data will be extremely relevant in further research assignments, papers, projects, etc.
• Understanding how graphs and statistics are used inaccurately to create a bias and skew your opinion will help you analyze data within the press/social media and orient yourself to their real meaning.