

**Biology /
Psychology
447-001**



**Neuroscience
Seminar
Spring 2008**

Instructor: Dr. Hurd

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Class Location: SCIC 239

Office Hours: TR 8:00-9:15 AM, 1:30-2:30
PM and by appointment

Office Location: 59 Coming, Office #202

PREREQUISITE FOR THE COURSE:

BIOL / PSYC 351 – Neuroscience I

BIOL / PSYC 352 – Neuroscience II

Or by permission of the instructor

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course is designed to expose you to a wide range of topical research in the field of neuroscience and encourage critical thinking and effective communication skills.

REQUIRED READING AND MATERIALS:

Readings will be handed out in class.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

The class will meet for 180 minutes, once per week. **Class attendance is mandatory.** Students that do not attend regularly will fail the course and not complete the minor in Neuroscience. **Attendance will be taken at each class meeting.**

If you miss seminar, you will need to make-up the seminar by writing a 1-page single-spaced summary of the assigned readings focusing primarily on your reflection on the reading. This summary is due by 5:00 pm 1-week after the missed class.

Faculty Research Seminars

A portion of this course will involve listening to and learning about topical research in the field of neuroscience. Formal research talks by local neuroscientists at CofC and MUSC will be given to the class and open to the public. Prior to the seminar, students enrolled in the class will read and discuss primary literature related to the upcoming presentation in a journal club format. Students will rotate leading the discussions. This component of the course is to make you aware of the experimental

methodology, design and data analysis used in this particular field. It is also meant to afford you the opportunity to further develop your critical thinking skills.

Student Participation

Since most, if not all, of you are currently engaged in independent research, you will be asked to present your current research on several occasions during this course both verbally through informal presentations and in a written format through a poster presentation and an abstract. One goal of the course is to prepare you for these different forms of communication.

Writing: During the course of the semester, you will be asked to write concise descriptions of your ongoing research in the form of an abstract. You will be asked to write an abstract for the SYNAPSE conference. This abstract will be due by 11 February.

Seminars: The ability to create and deliver a good research seminar will also be a focus of the course. Using the faculty seminars as a model, you will develop short presentations of your work that will be critiqued using student evaluations and class discussions.

Posters: Students will develop and present a poster on their research at the SYNAPSE meeting to be held on 15 March.

This course is meant to provide a friendly venue for you to speak and write about your own research. If you are not actively engaged in independent research, your seminar will be on a topic of neuroscience research that has been approved by the instructor.

Evaluation and Grading: Grades will be based on class participation / attendance, your abstract submission, your research seminar presentations, and your poster presentation.

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the number of points that you earn at the completion of the course. The number of points and the approximate percentage of the grade are indicated below.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Approx. % of Grade</u>	<u>Number of Points</u>
Class participation / attendance	50%	250
Abstract	10%	50
Seminar presentations	30%	150
Poster Presentation	10%	50
Total	100%	500

Grade Assignment:

The combined total for all of the above will be 500 points. Your final grade in the course will be based on a percentage of points based on the College of Charleston grading scheme:

<u>% of Total Points</u>	<u>Grade Earned</u>
93% and higher	A
90 – 92%	A-
87 – 89%	B+
83 – 86%	B
80 – 82%	B-
77 – 79%	C+
73 – 76%	C
70 – 72%	C-
67 – 69%	D+
63 – 66%	D
60 – 62%	D-
< 60%	F

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

The following schedule represents a tentative plan for the course. *Topics and presenters are subject to change.*

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Subject / Topic</u>
1	14 January		Course Introduction
2	21 January	NA	No Class – Martin Luther King holiday observed
3	28 January		Instruction, Poster / oral presentations, Reviewing papers
4	04 February		Student Presentations and Discussion
5	11 February		Student Presentations and Discussion
6	18 February	Ryan LaLumiere, Ph.D.	Faculty Seminar, Learning & Memory
7	25 February	David Griesemer, M.D.	Faculty Seminar, Epilepsy in Children
8	03 March	NA	No Class – Spring Break
9	10 March	Diana Vincent, Ph.D.	Faculty Seminar, Bioinformatics
	15 March	NA	Brain Awareness Week and poster presentation at the SYNAPSE Conference
10	17 March	Eric Buck, Ph.D.	Faculty Seminar, To be announced (TBA)
11	24 March	Jacobo Mintzer, M.D.	Faculty Seminar, Alzheimer's Disease
12	31 March	To be announced (TBA)	Faculty Seminar, TBA
13	07 April		Student Research Seminars
14	14 April		Student Research Seminars
15	21 April		Course wrap-up / Other issues to consider