

CURRENT ISSUES IN NEUROSCIENCE NEUR*4000, FALL 2011

Lectures Monday 2:30-5:20; OVC Room 1642

Course Coordinator Lindsay Bergeron
Biomedical Sciences, OVC
Room 1661
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Course Description

This course will consist of assigned readings, student presentations, summarizing journal articles, attending lectures each week and participating in class discussions about current issues in the field of neuroscience.

Current research in neuroscience, emphasizing such topics as social information processing, canine aggression, neurocognitive inhibition, learning in the fire-bellied toad, treatment of CNS diseases in the dog, human balance and posture, gut-CNS interactions and neuroplasticity will be covered.

Office Hours

Office hours are **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Please see Lindsay Bergeron after class or contact her via e-mail to set up an appointment.

Schedule and Lecture Information

- 1)** All tests and assignments are indicated in bold face and are described under the method of evaluation below.
- 2)** Lectures will be presented by either an invited neuroscientist or Lindsay Bergeron.
- 3)** Each week a different neuroscientist will give a lecture on a research topic of their choice. Journal articles (4 or 5) related to the lecture topic will be assigned at least one-week prior to the lecture. Students will take turns presenting these journal articles and will be expected to participate in and lead an open class discussion on the topic.
- 4)** Each class will be structured as follows: 4 or 5 student presentations (10 minutes each) on an assigned journal article, including a brief (5 minute) group discussion on each article lead by the presenter, followed by a lecture presented by a speaker on a research topic.

Each student is expected to locate and read the assigned journal articles provided by the speaker prior to class each week and is expected to actively participate and contribute to all class discussions.

Method of Evaluation

1. Article Presentation/ Article Summary Paper	15%	Dates will be assigned via email prior to the first class
2. Midterm Article	40%	Due on Oct 24 at 2:30pm
3. Group Presentation/ Summary Sheet	30%	Presentation dates will be assigned on Sept 19 Topics must be approved by Nov 7 Summary sheets must be submitted by Nov 25
4. Peer Evaluations	5%	Completed in class on Dec 1
5. Presentation Overviews	10%	Due on Dec 5 at 5pm via email
TOTAL	100%	

Article presentation: 4 or 5 journal articles will be assigned each week. Articles will be related to the lecture topic for that week. One student will be assigned to each article and will be responsible for putting together a 15 minute (5 minutes for discussion) summary presentation on their assigned article. This presentation must include prepared key discussion points/questions for the class. Every student is expected to read the assigned articles and to participate in the discussions.

Article summary paper: Students presenting articles will hand in a one-page (12-point font, double-spaced) summary of their assigned journal article at 2:30pm (at the beginning of class) on the day of their journal article presentation. The summary paper should include the prepared key discussion points/questions.

Midterm article: Students will be asked to select a recent (published within the last year) neuroscience journal article. In two pages or less (12-point font, double-spaced), students will write a lay summary article on the selected journal article e.g. something you would read in The Globe and Mail (<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/technology/science/>).

Group presentation: Students will present in groups of 4 or 5 (groups will be determined by the students in class on Sept 19) on a topic of their choice (which must be approved by Lindsay Bergeron by Nov 7) and prepare a 30 minute presentation (10 minutes for discussion) to be presented during the final week of class (Nov 28 & Dec 1).

Presentation summary sheet: Each group will prepare a one-page summary of their presentation, to be handed out to the class prior to presenting. Summary sheets must be submitted to Lindsay Bergeron via email by Nov 25 at 5pm. Lindsay

will make enough copies for each student and will bring them to class on presentation day.

Peer evaluation: Each group member will evaluate all other group members on their contributions and performance during group presentation preparation. Peer evaluations will be completed in class on Dec 1.

Presentation overviews: Each student will write a one-paragraph summary of each group presentation (excluding their own). Presentation summaries will **NOT** be accepted for presentations that students were not present for. Presentation overviews will be submitted to Lindsay Bergeron via email by Dec 5 at 5pm.

WHEN UNABLE TO MEET A COURSE REQUIREMENT DUE TO ILLNESS PLEASE ADVISE YOUR PROGRAM ADVISOR AS WELL AS THE COORDINATOR OF THE COURSE.

Schedule of Topics and Dates

Date	Presenter	Topic
Sept 12	No Class	Please review the course outline, go through the PubMed tutorial and read the assigned articles
Sept 19	Introduction Presentation group assignments Student presentations Speaker: Lindsay Bergeron Dept of Biomedical Sciences	Introduction & Studying the brain
Sept 26	Student presentations Guest speaker: Elena Choleris Dept of Psychology	Neuroendocrinology of social information processing
Oct 3	Student presentations Guest speaker: Lee Niel Dept of Population Medicine	Neurobiological contributions to the development of canine aggression
Oct 10	No Class	Holiday; no classes scheduled
Oct 17	Student presentations Guest speaker: Mark Fenske Dept of Psychology	Emotional and motivational consequences of neurocognitive inhibition
Oct 24	Student presentations Guest speaker: Fred Laberge Dept of Integrative Biology	Learning in the fire-bellied toad
Oct 31	Student presentations Guest speaker: Luis Gaitero Dept of Clinical Studies	Corticosteroids in the treatment of CNS diseases in the dog

Nov 7	Student presentations Guest speaker: John Zettel Dept of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences	Take a stand: the complexity and importance of human balance and posture
Nov 14	Student presentations Guest speaker: Emma Allen- Vercoe Dept of Molecular and Cellular Biology	The brain and the gut microbiota; microbial drivers of mood and behaviour
Nov 21	Student presentations Speaker: Lindsay Bergeron Dept of Biomedical Sciences	Neuroplasticity
Nov 28	Group presentations	
Thursday Dec 1	Group presentations	

Academic Notes

Students with Disabilities

If you are registered with the Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD), please inform Lindsay Bergeron (in private, or via e-mail), outlining your special needs. This information is to enable me to assist you as much as possible and will be kept confidential. Any students requesting such assistance should register with the CSD first.

Electronic Etiquette

The use of laptop computers and other portable electronic devices can be very disruptive to the classroom environment. Such devices are permitted in the classroom provided that they are used strictly in support of class related activities (e.g. note taking) and are not disturbing to the other students. Please note that emailing, text messaging, other forms of telephone and electronic communication, and the use of other electronic devices (e.g. portable music devices and cell phones) are NOT PERMITTED during the lectures or presentations. Students that fail to comply with this request will be asked to leave the classroom. Please note that electronic audio and/or video recordings of the lectures are not permitted without the signed consent of the speaker.

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise Lindsay Bergeron in writing (or via e-mail), with your name, student ID and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed requirement, but otherwise as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than ONE WEEK later. If documentation of your inability to meet that in-course requirement is necessary, the course coordinator will request it of you. Students who find themselves unable to meet course

requirements by the deadlines or criteria expected because of medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances beyond their control should review the regulations on academic consideration in the calendar.

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/pdffiles/calendar.pdf> and discuss their situation with the course coordinator or program counselor.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community-faculty, staff and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The University of Guelph takes a serious view of academic misconduct and it is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University's policy. Included in the definition of academic misconduct are such activities as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission.

To better understand your responsibilities, read the Undergraduate Calendar at <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/pdffiles/calendar.pdf>;

see also <http://www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/>.

You are also advised to discuss any questions you may have with your course coordinator or academic counselor.

Students should be aware that faculty has the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work. For students found guilty of academic misconduct, serious penalties, up to and including suspension or expulsion can be imposed.