

SYLLABUS

Introduction to Neuroscience Research at Mason

NEUR411.003

Fall 2019

Mondays, 10:30am – 1:10pm

Robinson Hall, B-204

Instructor: Ted Dumas

Contact Information: tdumas@gmu.edu, 3-9170

Office Hours: Monday, 2:30-3:30 PM or by appointment

Office Location: Krasnow Institute, Room 109

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This 3-credit course covers neuroscience research at being performed at Mason. Beginning on the second week of the semester, every other week, a Mason faculty member will give a presentation on a published major research project from her or his laboratory. The week following each presentation, the class will discuss the presentation and published article(s) pertaining to the prior presentation and write a short report. In addition, time remaining after class discussions will be used to prepare a longer primary research article of a mock research project from the instructor's laboratory. It is expected that students learn the process of writing while broadening their understanding of Mason neuroscience research.

READING MATERIALS

Primary research articles will be downloaded through the Mason library system.

GRADING POLICY

There will be a total of six short reports and one long report. Each short report will be worth 10% of the final grade and must be submitted prior to the following faculty presentation. The long report will be worth 40% of the final grade and must be submitted no later than one week following the last day of class, December 9th. There are no quizzes or exams.

A score of 90% or above generally results in a grade of A- or above, 80 or above corresponds to a B- or above, and 70 or above results in a C- or above. These number-to-letter grade conversions serve as a guideline and are not absolute. The final grades may be determined on a curve if this is in the students favor and justified in the opinion of the instructor. Make-up reports are not allowed. Please do not put the instructor in a difficult position by missing a report deadline and then requesting an extension or a make-up without written medical documentation explaining the missed obligation.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Students must use their Masonlive email accounts to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the ODS. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.
<http://ods.gmu.edu> | Email:ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474.

OTHER USEFUL CAMPUS RESOURCES

WRITING CENTER

A114 Robinson Hall
(703) 993-1200 | <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES "Ask a Librarian"

<http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

(703) 993-2380 | <http://caps.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, AND INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

As a faculty member and designated "Responsible Employee," I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per university policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from Mason's Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730 | titleix@gmu.edu).

DEADLINES

Last day to add a class – September 3rd
Last day to drop a class – September 9th
Self-withdrawal period – September 18th to September 30th
Selective withdrawal period – October 1st to October 29th

CLASS POLICIES

- *The instructor of this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation.*
- *Cell phones, pagers, and other communicative devices are not allowed in this class. Please keep them stowed away and out of sight. Laptops or tablets (e.g. iPads) may be permitted for the purpose of taking notes only.*

- Regarding electronic devices (such as laptops, cell phones, etc.), please be respectful of your peers and your instructor and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to class. Such disruptions show a lack of professionalism and may affect your grade.

Week of Semester	Text Material	Research Article
Week 1 Aug. 26 th	Introduction to Neuro and Scientific Writing	
Week 2 Sept. 2 nd	<i>Labor Day – No Class!!</i>	
Week 3 Sept. 9 th	Faculty Presentation – 1 Dr. Rob Cressman	Investigating seizure dynamics
Week 4 Sept. 16 th	Review of Presentation – 1	
Week 5 Sept. 23 rd	Faculty Presentation – 2 Dr. ****	
Week 6 Sept. 30 th	Review of Presentation – 2	
Week 7 Oct. 7 th	Faculty Presentation – 3 Dr. Jane Flinn	A novel model of Alzheimer’s disease: APP with Tau exacerbates behavioral deficits and zinc administration heightens tangle pathology
Week 8_Fall Break! Tues Oct. 15th	Review of Presentation – 3	
Week 9 Oct. 21 st	Faculty Presentation – 4 Dr. Robert Lipsky	
Week 10 Oct. 28 th	Review of Presentation – 4	
Week 11 Nov. 4 th	Faculty Presentation – 5 Dr. Aarthi Narayanan	
Week 12 Nov. 11 th	Review of Presentation – 5	
Week 13 Nov. 18 th	Faculty Presentation – 6 Dr. Frank Krueger	Toward a model of interpersonal trust drawn from neuroscience, psychology, and economics
Week 14 Nov. 25 th	Review of Presentation – 6	
Week 15 Dec. 2 nd	Long Report Wrap-Up	
Week 15 Dec. 9 th	Long Report Deadline	