

HTHS 2810 PSYCH 2810 ZOOL 2810**Introduction to Neuroscience**

Spring 2009 TTh 10:00 – 11:15 AM

Location: Social Science Building Room 317

Professors: Dr. Jim Hutchins and Dr. Lauren Fowler**Professor's e-mail:** jimhutchins@weber.edu and lfowler@weber.edu

**(This is BY FAR the best way to contact us)

Office Phones: *Hutchins:* 801-626-8694 *Fowler:* 801-626-7620**Office Hours:** *Hutchins:* By appointment, drop-ins welcome; *Fowler:* Mon and Wed 10-10:45; Tues and Thurs 9 – 9:45; and by appointment.**Office Locations:** *Hutchins:* Marriott Health 113; *Fowler:* Social Sciences 368**Class Web Site:** <http://online.weber.edu/>

Which professor to contact? Because neuroscience is an interdisciplinary field, this course will be led by two faculty members. You may contact either professor during any part of the course, but the syllabus schedule (see below) indicates to you which professor will cover which topics and, therefore, whom would be best to contact regarding specific material or exams.

I. Textbook: Bryan Kolb and Ian Wishaw. AN INTRODUCTION TO BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR, 2ND edition. NY, NY: Worth Publishers, 2006. Note: Supplemental reading materials will either be handed out in class or made available through the WSU Library e-reserve.

II. Course Objectives

- A. To explore the structure-function relationship of the human central nervous system and peripheral nervous system.
- B. To explore the biological basis of human (and animal) behavior, thinking, emotion, memory, and perception.
- C. To introduce students to the field of neuroscience, its different specializations and sub-areas, and methods used in research. This class covers a wide range of topics including: cellular and sub-cellular structures and processes, basic genetics as it applied to neuroscience, neuronal signaling, synaptic anatomy and physiology, function and dysfunction of the central nervous system, the biology of sensation and movement, cognitive functions and neurological disorders.
- D. To integrate theories and research with real-life medical applications so as to make the study of neuroscience both interesting and meaningful to the students.
- E. To encourage students to prepare themselves for the real-life application of their degree if they focus upon the biological and physiological aspects of human function and dysfunction by educating them about different career paths (e.g. clinical, research, industry, etc.).
- F. To appreciate the depth of knowledge currently available concerning the biological basis of behavior and the societal advantages provided by such knowledge in terms of understanding, prediction, and intervention (e.g. through biomedical and psychological treatment of diseases and disorders).

III. Course Grade**A. Examinations**

1. Five exams will be taken during the course of this semester. Each exam is non-comprehensive and constitutes 16% of your final grade. Two additional assignments will be given (see below) and each will be worth 10% of your final grade.
2. The fifth and final exam will be taken on April 25th – April 30th. No exam will be given after

April 30th.

3. All exams will be taken using at a Weber State testing center using Chi Tester. You will have 4 days to take each exam. Please note the testing center hours listed on the web site (currently listed as: 7:30am to 8pm Monday to Thursday, 7:30am-4:30pm Friday, 9am-4pm Saturday). **YOU MUST ARRIVE AT LEAST ONE HOUR** before the testing center closes or they will not permit you to take the exam. You must have your student ID to take the exam.

B. Make-up Examinations/Missing Exams

If you know of a conflict with the exam schedule, you may take ANY exam early but **must notify one of us in writing of your intention to do so as early as possible**. IF FOR ANY REASON YOU MISS AN EXAM you must notify ONE OF US in writing immediately. You may take the exam one day late (for a 10 point deduction) or two days late (for a 20 point deduction). You will not be able to take an exam three or more “business days” (i.e. days the testing center is open, Mon.-Sat.) after the scheduled dates and will receive a zero for this exam.

C. Additional Assignments

In addition to the five exams for this course, your course grade will also be determined by two additional assignments.

a. Brain Awareness Week Poster

Groups of students will develop posters to present during Brain Awareness Week and to the Society for Neuroscience Intermountain Chapter in mid-March. Posters will address specific topics of interest to neuroscientists, such as neurological disorders and treatments. The group poster is worth 10% of your final grade. Posters are due in class **March 5th**. More information will be given on a separate handout.

b. Writing Assignment

One writing assignment (approximately 1000 words) will be given during the semester. **This assignment is not optional – you must complete it to finish the course**. Assignments are due by class time on the due date and should be provided both digitally and in hardcopy (typed, not hand-written). The writing assignment is worth 10 % of your final course grade.

The writing assignment is due **April 14th**. More information on this assignment will be given in an additional handout.

D. Extra Credit Opportunities

Each exam will have an extra credit opportunity included with the questions. These are questions that require you to integrate information and go above and beyond what you normally would learn for the exam. You may earn up to 4 percentage points for each exam through the exam extra credit. In addition, you have the option to do “Exam Corrections” for Exams One to Four (not Five); instructions on how to do these will be provided.

E. Grading Scale

The course grade will be assigned according to the scale indicated below:

<u>Numeric Score</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
93-100	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+
60-66	D
Below 60	E

F. Honors Component

Subject to approval from the instructors and the Honors office, students may elect to take Introduction to Neuroscience as an honors course. In addition to the regular course assignments, honors students will write three reports (3-4 pages each) tying the course material to a topic of their choice (e.g. Alzheimers) using primary research articles and other materials. At the end of the semester they will each give a 10-15 minute oral report on their topic, integrating information from their three written reports and additional materials. Each of the four assignments will count as 25% of the Honors Component grade, which is entirely separate from the overall course grade.

Schedule for Honors Component assignments:

- Week 1 - pick a topic
- Week 2 through 9 - write three reports, 1 report every 3 weeks
- Week 10 to 14 – integrate information and prepare oral report
- Week 14 - give oral report

IV. Course Outline:

GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE:

CLASS DATES	TOPIC
Weeks 1-3	Introduction to the course Nervous system structure and function (From systems level to cellular level). Focus on <i>Neurobiology and Anatomy</i>
Exam 1	1/23 -1/26
Weeks 4-6	The basics of molecular neurobiology: sub-cellular structure, intracellular processes, genetic expression, and genomic techniques. Focus on <i>Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience</i> .
Exam 2	2/13- 2/17
Week 7-9	Biomembrane structure and function. Neuronal signaling: how neurons receive, integrate and transmit information. Focus on <i>Systems Neuroscience</i>
Brain Awareness Week Posters Due	3/5
Exam 3	3/6 – 3/16
Weeks 10-12	Brain function: How the brain processes information and provides abilities: sensation, memory, and cognition. Focus on <i>Cognitive/Behavioral Neuroscience</i>
Exam 4	4/3 – 4/6

Week 13-15	Brain dysfunction: neurological disorders, cutting-edge neuroscience research, and biomedical treatment. Focus on <i>Medical/Clinical Neuroscience</i>	
Writing Assignment Due	4/14	
Exam 5	4/25- 4/30	

*****NOTE:** *A detailed course schedule will be given separately.*

V. Additional Information

A. Attendance

Attendance is not required for this class but is **STRONGLY** encouraged and will be monitored. Anything discussed in class may be included on an exam, even if that information is not found in the textbook or online resources. Thus, it is in everyone’s best interest to attend. ****IF you miss class, there are two things you can do to get the material you missed. You may get the outline from the PowerPoint on WebCT, and/or you may get notes from a classmate. DO NOT email us or come to our offices to ask what you missed.** It is your responsibility to attend class or, if you cannot, contact a classmate to catch up. Please **DO** email us or come to our offices for any other purpose if you think we can be of help.

B. Class Contact

Often it is necessary to miss a part or all of class. When that happens, or when you have questions that you cannot answer on your own, it is helpful to have the name and number of another student in class that you can contact. Please use the space below to write down the name, email, and phone number of at least two students in this class. **AND** you can use WebCT to email anyone in the class.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CLASSMATES:

Name

Phone or Email

Name

Phone or Email

C. Class Courtesy

Please be courteous of others when coming late to or leaving early from class. Do not make a habit of arriving late or leaving early as many (including your instructors) find it very distracting. The following behaviors are rude when they take place during class time: a) holding private conversations, b) sleeping, c) reading other material, or d) doing other work. Eating and drinking in class are permitted, so long as it is not disruptive to the learning environment. ****POLICY FOR CELL PHONES: ALL CELL PHONES ARE TO BE OFF AND OUT OF SIGHT/REACH DURING CLASS. NO CALLS OR TEXT MESSAGING ALLOWED!** Any disruptive behavior will be addressed immediately, and if the behavior does not cease, you will be asked to leave class. **Students repeatedly engaging in rude behavior will be counseled to drop the course.**

D. Grade Appeals

If, after receiving an exam back during class, you think a mistake has been made in the grading of **your** exam, please do not ask about this during class. Write/type your questions/concerns, and provide reference to specific pages from the book to support your concern, and turn these questions in to one of your instructors at the end of the class period. You will receive a response, and any grade

adjustment necessary, within one week. You may also do this with writing assignments. **THIS IS THE ONLY WAY** that your concerns will be addressed. **ONLY** written questions and comments **THAT YOU SUPPORT** will be evaluated.

E. Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism/Cheating

We encourage students to work and study together whenever possible. **However, students must hand in their own work.** Whenever you try to pass off someone's work that is not your own, that is cheating. If you cheat on ANY assignment (even extra credit), you will receive a grade of **E (Failing) for the course**. Plagiarism is when you represent someone else's ideas or words as your own. For a very detailed description of plagiarism, please go to the web site and review the **PLAGIARISM** description. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism. ANY plagiarism (even unintentional) will result in a failing grade in the course. Please refer to the following web site for a complete listing of infringements that constitute cheating: <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>.

F. Completing all Work

All assignments must be completed in order for students to pass the course. **Students will receive a grade of I (incomplete) if any work is missing when the final grades are computed.** The grade of I will turn into a UW if the work is not completed in a timely fashion as determined by your instructors.

G. Students with Disabilities

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

H. Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Please refer to the following web site for a complete listing of all WSU student rights and responsibilities: <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>

VI. Testing Center Hours

All exams may be taken in a Weber State Testing Center on Chi Tester. In order to take an exam, you must show up on the correct date at the appropriate times (NOTE: you must arrive at least one hour before closing) with your student ID. You will not be allowed to take the exam without a picture ID or if you show up after hours. Please contact the testing centers to be sure of their current hours.

VII. Grade Record

Please keep a record of the grades you receive on each assignment. You may also access your grades using the MY GRADES tool on WebCT. Grades are updated within 1 week of the end of every exam.

NOTE: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. We are committed to following the syllabus but there is no guarantee that we will. Altering the syllabus may also mean changing the nature or timing of exams/assignments. **By continuing in the course after reading the syllabus, you are indicating that you accept the terms of the syllabus.**