Undergraduate Neurobiology Seminar

ZOOLOGY 500 001 (1.0 Credits)
Fall 2018-2019 [1192]

Description
Neurobiology seminar for undergraduates. A faculty lead lecture/discussion about a wide range of topics in neurobiology research from molecular neurobiology to integrative systems. Topics discussed by invited UW-Madison faculty researchers in any given semester can include: ion channels and synaptic plasticity, neural development, sensory and cognitive physiology, biological basis of behavioral disorders and cognitive decline. Enroll Info: None

Prerequisite(s)
Declared in Neurobiology or Biology with the neurobiology option and PSYCH/ZOOLOGY 523 or concurrent enrollment (or NTP 523 prior to Fall 2017)

Breadths
B - Biological Science

Instruction Mode
Classroom Instruction

Canvas Course URL
https://canvas.wisc.edu/

2018-2019 Fall [1192]
Term Start Date: Wednesday, 5-Sep-2018  Term End Date: Wednesday, 2-Jan-2019

Location and Schedule: Noland Zoology Building 168 W 4:00 PM-4:50 PM
CRN: 970022013

How the Credit Hours are Met
This class meets one 50-minute class period each week over the semester and carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities (reading, writing, problem sets, studying, etc) for about 2 hours out of the classroom for every class period. The syllabus includes additional information about meeting times and expectations for student work.

INSTRUCTORS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Instructor
MICHAELE KOENIGS
MRKOENIGS@WISC.EDU

Instructor Availability
By appointment. Email mrkoenigs@wisc.edu

GRADING AND COURSE MATERIALS
Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)
Learn contemporary approaches to neuroscience research

Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various experimental approaches

Grading

You are expected to attend all the seminars. You are allowed to miss one seminar with no grade penalty. Additional excused absences may be allowed provided that you have a valid reason for missing class (e.g., illness, family emergency) and that you complete a make-up assignment (essay based on one of the speaker’s original research articles). Upcoming exams or assignments for other classes are not valid excuses. Your grade will be based upon three things: attendance, participation, and essays. All you need to do to earn an “A” is show up to every seminar (except one), ask at least one question in class during the semester, and submit a short essay within one week after each class. Each missed essay (after the first one) will result in the loss of a half-letter grade (0 or 1 miss = A; 2 misses = AB; 3 misses = B; 4 misses = BC; etc).

EXAMS, QUIZZES, PAPERS & OTHER MAJOR GRADED WORK

Homework & Other Assignments

After each seminar, you will write a short essay (approximately a half-page) in which you provide some thoughts on the seminar. The essay content is quite flexible—you can mention something you found particularly interesting, ask questions, propose future experiments, etc. You will submit your essay through the Learn@UW Canvas course website. Under the “Assignments” tab, you will see a folder for each speaker. Upload your essay into the appropriate folder. Essays are due within 1 week. Late assignments will not receive credit.

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

You may register for honors for this course. For honors credit you will consult with Dr. Koenigs to determine a project that will enhance your exposure to neuroscience outside of the seminar series. Examples of honors projects include: (1) read and critique a news/popular media report of a neuro finding, based on a reading of the actual research article; (2) attend a lab meeting or observe an experiment of one of the course’s faculty presenters, and submit a summary of your experience; (3) seek out an additional campus/public neuro seminar on a topic that is not covered during the course, and provide a summary/commentary.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UW-Madison’s community of scholars in which everyone’s academic work and behavior are held to the highest academic integrity standards. Academic misconduct compromises the integrity of the university. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. This includes but is not limited to failure on the assignment/course, disciplinary probation, or suspension. Substantial or repeated cases of misconduct will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards for additional review. For more information, refer to https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

McBurney Disability Resource Center syllabus statement: “The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty [me] of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty [I], will work either directly with the student [you] or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student’s educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA.” http://mcburney.wisc.edu/facstaffother/faculty/syllabus.php
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Institutional statement on diversity: “Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.” https://diversity.wisc.edu/