

Neuroscience 5025/7025
Seminar in Behavioural Neuroscience
EP1201
Wed 1500-1700

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Iwaniuk
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Course Description

In-depth study of specific topics in, approaches to, and contemporary research in psychology and neuroscience. Discussion of preparation of talks and research posters. Includes seminars on various contemporary problems in brain, behaviour, and cognitive science by staff, invited speakers and graduate students.

Course Prerequisites

None, but all registered students need to be in a graduate program.

Course Objectives

This year, the aim of the graduate seminar course will be to discuss various issues related to being a scientist and developing skills necessary to become an independent researcher. The course will involve written assignments, presentations and discussions, all of which are detailed below.

Weekly Updates

ALL students attending class should come prepared to provide a 5-10 min presentation. The students to present each class will be selected at random in that class and will be expected to discuss for 5-10 minutes something novel that they have read or discovered in their own research over the past week. The topic discussed need not be directly related to the material to be covered in the class on the day, but should be relevant to the overall them of the course. That is, what happened on The Big Bang Theory last night might be novel, but is not relevant to the course (regardless of Mayim Bialik). The fact that you read a paper in the latest issue of Brain Research Bulletin that you thought was cool or interesting, on the other hand, is relevant to the course.

Grading

All registered students will be expected to play an active role in the weekly functioning of the class. The grading will therefore be based on **Attendance, Paper Presentation and Written Assignments**.

Attendance – all registered graduate students must attend a minimum of 85% of the classes or an entire letter grade will be deducted (i.e., from an A to a B). Attendance will be recorded by signing your name in the attendance book at the beginning of each class. If there are exceptional circumstances that have prevented you from attending class, **written documentation is required**.

Written Assignments – weekly assignments will be assigned in relation to the material to be covered in the subsequent class. 100% of these must be submitted by registered students or an entire letter grade will be deducted (i.e., from an A to a B). Written assignments must be received by 5pm on the Monday prior to the class in which the assignment will be discussed. **Late papers will not be accepted unless exceptional circumstances have prevented you from submitting. This must, however, be communicated to the instructor in advance of the deadline and will require documentation.**

If you complete both the minimum requirements for Attendance and Assignments you will receive an **A**. If you fail to complete one of these requirements, you will receive a **B**. If you fail to complete both requirements, you will receive a **C**.

Paper Presentation – during the second half of each seminar (1600-1700), 1-2 students will present journal articles for class discussion. The presentation should be 10-15 minutes in length and does not have to use PowerPoint. Each student will present twice during the semester and the order will be decided upon the first week of class. You are free to choose any paper relevant to neuroscience, but you must provide the details of the paper you are presenting to Dr. Iwaniuk by **5pm on the Friday before you present**. This is essential so that the details can be circulated to your fellow graduate students so that everyone can participate in the discussion. At the end of your presentation, you should be prepared to answer questions from your fellow graduate students and/or lead a discussion on issues that you had with the paper. **Presenting these papers is a mandatory component of the course for all registered students. Failure to do so will result in an F.**

Topics to be Covered in the ‘Lecture’ Component

What to expect as a graduate student

How to review a paper for publication

Time management

Lab (mis)management

How not to present your data

Misconduct and fraud in science

Lecture Schedule

The topics to be covered will vary from week to week depending upon what is happening in the department and what you as students decide is important. The exception to this is the week of Nov 13th, which coincides with the annual Society for Neuroscience meeting. Depending on how many students are attending this year, the seminar might be canceled. If it is canceled, this will not count towards attendance.