NSCI320: Intro to Neuroscience

The details of the course are described throughout the syllabus. I treat the syllabus like a contract with the student. Thus, details of the syllabus are closely followed with rare exceptions. Know and understand the syllabus. You will be quizzed over it.

Table of Contents

- Section I: General Information - Pgs 2-4
  - Section IA: Course Description and Objectives
  - Section IB: Contact Information
  - Section IC: Course Materials (textbooks and lab materials)
  - Section ID: Course Format (lecture and lab)
- Section II: Assessment and Grading - Pgs 4-6
  - Section IIA: Point Values (itemized breakdown of course points)
  - Section IIB: Grading Criteria (grade scale and procedures)
  - Section IIC: Final Course Grades
  - Section IID: Extra Credit
- Section III: Important Dates - Pgs 7
- Section IV: Testing - Pgs 7
- Section V: Assignments - Pgs 8
- Section VI: Attendance / Make-up Policy - Pgs 8-9
  - Section VIA: Is attendance mandatory? (Description and Options)
  - Section VIB: Make-up policy
  - Section VIC: Murphy
- Section VII: Statement for students with disabilities - Pgs 9
- Section VIII: Statement on Academic Integrity - Pgs 9-10
- Section IX: Classroom Etiquette - Pgs 10
- Section X: Outside The Classroom: Office Hours, Appointments, and Email - Pgs 11
- Section XI: Tips for Getting an A - Pgs 11-13
- Section XII: Frequently Asked Questions - Pgs 13-14
- Appendix A: Laboratory Rules and Regulations - Pg 15
- Appendix B: Description of Lab Practical and Lab Checklist - Pgs 16-17
- Appendix C: Self Survey and Predicted Grade in the Course - Pgs 18-19
Section I: General Information:

Inspirational Quotes

“Diligence is the mother of good luck”, Ben Franklin

“With self-discipline most anything is possible”, Theodore Roosevelt

“If you are going to do it, do it right”, Mike Holmes

“Rawrgwawggr”, Chewbacca

Section I A: Course Description and 3 Main Objectives:

Course Description: The course explores basic principles in neuroscience.

More specifically, this course expands upon content from NSCI100/PSYC100 and requires students to apply this information to selected case studies. The case studies focus on zombies as they are portrayed in a variety of popular zombie films and other media. Through case study analysis many symptoms or characteristics of the zombie condition including aspects of zombie movement, sleep, memory, sensory systems, perception, fascial recognition, hunger, aggression, social behavior, emotion, language, and consciousness are observed. Using a forensic neurology approach we apply detailed knowledge of how the brain functions normally to discuss these zombie case study observations and generate diagnoses or hypotheses of likely structural, physiological, and chemical mechanisms related to zombie brain dysfunction. Finally, this class is designed with active learning components including classroom presentations and laboratory experiences.

Objective 1: Master the basic principles spanning many subfields of neuroscience.

From neurophysiology to anatomy to psychopathology, a broad array of subjects are covered. Detailed checklists/study guides are provided to highlight this information throughout the textbook. Test questions commonly incorporate multiple concepts and assume a detailed understanding of the required material. All tests are cumulative requiring students to approach the material using study techniques that emphasize long term retention. Through discussion, application, repetition, and rigorous testing, satisfactory completion of this objective will be inevitable for students planning to do well in this course.

Objective 2: Promote active learning in lecture and laboratory activities.

Lecture: The course is designed to promote learning through interaction. Students are encouraged to participate in the classroom through discussions, clickers, and group activities. Students are also given some control over daily lecture content through online suggestions and interactive question and answer sessions. Obviously, active learning requires regular attendance and student participation. Thus, course policies, grading, and procedures emphasize attendance and participation.

Lab: Neuroanatomy is fundamental to the understanding of psychological and brain sciences. References to neuroanatomy continually appear throughout the textbook, and related scientific literature discussed in the classroom. All lecture exams in this course also have a neuroanatomy component. Students traditionally struggle to learn 3-dimensional neuroanatomy from a 2-dimensional textbook. Thus, an active learning “hands on” laboratory component is included in this course. From rats to sheep to cattle to humans, students work in small groups exploring the neuroanatomy of biological specimens. This unique active learning experience aims to enhance appreciation and understanding of the size, shape, complexity, connectivity, and spatial relationships between neuroanatomical structures.
Objective 3: Develop critical thinking, research, presentation, and collaborative group skills

The applied forensic neurology approach to this course fosters critical thinking and investigative research. Additionally, in small groups students will conduct brief literature reviews on assigned topics and orally present this material in a PowerPoint format to rest of the class. Groups are graded on informational content of the presentation, slide quality, oral communication skills, and ability to respond to questions.

Section I B: Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Eric Roth   Contact Info: Email: eroth@udel.edu

Office Hours: Wolf Hall 225, Mon 2:00-4:30PM, or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: All TA information (contact information and office hours) can be found on the teaching assistant file under the resources Sakai tab.

Section I C: Course materials:

Lecture Textbook: Do Zombies Dream of Undead Sheep? Timothy Verstynen and Bradley Voytek


Other requirements: Clickers (we will likely use frequency AA) and personal protective equipment for the lab (goggles, and appropriate clothing). 8 Mil Nitrile gloves will be provided by the instructor.

Section I D: Course Format:

Lecture: The general sequence of course content and associated tests/quizzes is outlined in the important date section below (Section III). You are expected to review and take notes on the chapters prior to material being discussed in class. To estimate how far you should read for lecture preparation, I will give continual updates in class on content for the upcoming week. Additionally, on Sakai I provide chapter checklists for all terms and concepts that you may be tested over. Tests are derived from the checklists, textbook, and other listed reference material. Although you are not directly tested over the lectures, classroom activities are designed to provide guidance and enhance efficient acquisition of the material. More specifically, lectures aid in highlighting some (non-inclusive) of the required material, provide additional examples and clarification, and most importantly, give you an opportunity to interact and ask questions. The PowerPoint slides associated with lecture are designed to lead discussion. They are not intended to be reference material and will not be provided as such. Other reference material and assignment instructions will be provided on Sakai under the resources tab.

Lab: Laboratory procedures are conducted at another location (Star Campus: HSC 227). Lab dates and associated point values are indicated in Section III of this syllabus. If a student is unable to attend lab, opportunities to make up the lost points will likely come in the form of a mini review paper or related textbook based exercises. If you miss a lab and wish to make up the points, email me (prior to or no later than 12 hours after the lab) to acknowledge your absence and request a make up lab. Access to lab materials is restricted to scheduled lab times. Laptops, tablets, phones, cameras, and other electronic
devices are prohibited in the lab. Lab models and biological specimens are fragile and expensive. Please handle with care. See Appendix A of this syllabus for a complete list of laboratory rules and regulations.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Each student is expected to provide and wear their own personal protective laboratory equipment (disposable or appropriate dedicated washable clothing (arms and legs must be covered, no open-toe shoes) and protective eye-ware). Disposable gloves (8 mil nitrile) are provided by the instructor and should be worn at all times in the lab.

Lab training: Students must complete Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) training modules. This includes right to know training for undergraduates (basic Right-to-know safety for undergraduates in lab class sections) and BloodBorne Pathogen (BBP) safety training. You must also complete the hepatitis B waiver form (posted on Sakai under resources). If possible, live in-class trainings will be scheduled.

(If you miss the in-class training described above, you must instead complete the online training modules. The online training modules can be found at the University of Delaware Environmental Health and Safety website (http://www.udel.edu/ehs/). You can obtain and read the instructions for online training under the drop down training tab or if you are familiar with the process, you can just click on the EHS online training tab. If you have any questions, let us know. After you have successfully completed the online training modules, you must print your certificates of completion and deliver them to the Graduate TA along with the HEP-B waiver form.)

Section II: Assessment and Grading:

Section II A: Point Values: Your course grade will be based on a total of 660 points.

200 Pts = 2 Tests (100pts each)

(The tests are cumulative. Each test typically consists of about 60-80 questions. Most questions are focused on a few chapters highlighted within that unit, but approximately 10-20% of the test also revisits previous material)

200 Pts = Lab: Exams and Worksheets

(The main purpose of the lab is to enhance understanding of neuroanatomy as related content appears throughout the textbook and on all lecture exams. Most lab periods include a 20pt worksheet/exercise/quiz that is completed within a small group. The early labs are designed to prepare you for the lab practical (100pts). This “fill in the blank” exam is individually completed. See appendix B for a detailed lab practical description.

100 Pts = Final Lecture Exam

(During finals week, multiple choice, approximately 100questions, cumulative)

70 Pts = Lecture Quizzes and Small Assignments

(Lecture quizzes and assignments come in many different formats and range from 1-20 points.)
50 Pts = Group Presentation

(You will randomly be assigned to a group. The group will receive instructions to research an assigned topic. As a group, you will create PowerPoint slides and present in front of the class. Groups are graded on informational content of the presentation, slide quality, oral communication skills, and ability to respond to questions from the classroom.)

40 Pts = Participation: Attendance, Clickers, and Classroom Interactions

We will monitor classroom participation. Participation events include sharing a fact/opinion, volunteering for an occasional classroom activity, asking a question, answering a question, clicker responses, and participating in the “Ask the Professor” program. For each day, you may receive a 0(absent), 1(attended class), 2(attended class and engaged in at least 1 participation event), or 3(attended class and engaged in multiple participation events). If you average at least a 2.0 (67% participation) across the semester, full participation points are awarded. If you fall below a 2.0 average, points are determined by your participation ranking (%) among the other students.

Section II B: Grading Criteria

The percentage cutoffs and the total number of earned points out of a possible 660pts needed to reach each grade level are listed below.

A ≥95% (627), A- ≥90% (594pts), B+ ≥87% (574.2pts), B ≥83% (547.8pts), B- ≥80% (528pts), C+ ≥77% (508.2pts),
C ≥73% (481.8pts), C- ≥70% (462pts), D+ ≥67% (428.8pts), D ≥63% (415.8pts), D- ≥60% (396pts), F<60% (<395.9pts)

- Grade Calculations: All grades are posted on Sakai as well as the possible points for each item. To calculate your grade just add up your total points earned and divide by the total points possible. Multiply by 100 to get a %, and then compare to the % cutoffs above. At the end of the semester you can simply add up your total points earned to the cutoffs above. For example, you will receive a B+ if you earn 574.2 to 593.9 points. Periodically on Sakai I also update your overall course grade by calculating a % for you that you can compare to the cutoffs above. This grade reflects all accumulated points, extra credit, and the class curve. I post this gradebook item under the name “Course Grade %”. Whenever this is updated, you should also personally calculate your overall grade to check for accuracy.

- Curve : If there is an additional class curve, the point curve total will be posted on Sakai. Treat these curve points like extra credit points (See Section II D). In other words, for grade calculations only add them to your total points earned (do not add them to your total points possible).

Section II C: Final Course Grades

- Course Grades: You determine your grade through classroom activities and test performance. Grades are not need-based. Thus if you know you need a given grade to graduate, maintain a scholarship, etc…, prepare accordingly from the beginning of the semester. Grades are determined by strict point thresholds based on the predefined criteria set in this syllabus (See Section II B). All point cutoffs are firm. Individual borderline grades are not rounded or manipulated in any way. You either meet and/or exceed the threshold or you do not. Under attendance option 1 (see section VI), 10 free extra credit points are awarded. One purpose of these points is to push you up to the next grade level in borderline situations (see Section II D below). Throughout the semester I am more than happy to work with you attempting to improve course performance, but after the final is completed, I do not have any options available for offering additional extra credit or selectively revising grades. Plan accordingly.
Section II D: Extra Credit

- **Extra Credit Points: Defined:** An extra credit point is a free point (no point basis; out of 0pts) that is added to your total earned points at the end of the semester. It does not affect the total points possible. In other words, when calculating your grade (%), it only affects the numerator.

- **10 Points:** You are automatically given 10 extra credit points under attendance policy option 1 (See Section VI). The extra credit points are simply added on to your total earned points for the semester. These free points serve 3 main purposes: 1) They encourage attendance and timely completion of assignments; 2) They provide some insurance against Murphy (see Section VI C); and 3) If you have a very borderline grade, they may bump you up to the next level.

- If instead you chose attendance policy option 2 (see Section VI), you may also receive up to 10 extra credit points. Instead of being attendance based points, these points may be acquired through additional graded writing/research assignments. All such assignments must be completed prior to the second 100pt lecture exam. If desired, ask for more details.

- **Cumulative Final Exam/Test Replacement:** *Potential extra credit points: 0-100pts:* Everyone likely has a test score that they would like to improve. To provide this opportunity, if your % grade on the Final Exam is above your lowest lecture test score, I automatically replace your lower test score with the % grade on the Final. In summary, the Final can negatively impact your grade similar to an individual test as it is also worth 100 points, but for those that need it, the Final Exam can have a tremendous positive impact by replacing the lowest test. The grade on the final will be posted on Sakai and your new “Course Grade %” will be calculated. On Sakai I will leave all original test grades posted so that you have a record of them, but the updated “Course Grade %” will reflect your new course grade after the test replacement calculation.

- **3 or 5 Points (not both):** For many students the above Final test replacement policy is extremely helpful to their grade, but it does come with some minor negative side effects. Motivationally speaking, it is best if you just forget that the test replacement exists and then if you really need it, you will be pleasantly surprised when I remind you about the policy later in the semester. However, some students can’t resist the temptation to minimize preparations for 1 of the 2 lecture tests with the intention that the Final exam will replace it. This is a risky strategy, especially with a cumulative exam structure. The purpose of the following points is to reward students for consistently doing well and discourage the above mentioned risky testing strategies. Thus, if both 100pt standard lecture exams (i.e. not including the Final) have a score of 80% or higher, a **5 point extra credit bonus** is added to your total earned semester points, or students can earn a **3 point extra credit bonus** if both exams have a score of 70% or higher.
Section III: Important Dates:  Dates are firm, see schedule below, plan accordingly.

Tues Aug 28... First day of class  
Tues Sept 4… Film Case Study Due: 20pts: See Sakai for assignment details  
Tues Sept 11 ... Quiz: 20 Pts (Chap 1, 2, and Syllabus) Mandatory! In Class EHS training.  
Thurs Sept 13… Lab 1: 20 Pts (class meets in HSC 227)  
Thurs Sept 20 … Lab 2: 20 Pts (class meets in HSC 227)  
Thurs Sept 27 … Test 1: 100 Pts (Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4: see checklist)  
Thurs Oct 4 …  Lab 3: 20 Pts (class meets in HSC 227)  
Thurs Oct 11 ... Quiz 20 Pts (Chap 5, 6, and previous material)  
Tues Oct 16 ... Lab 4: 20 Pts (class meets in HSC 227)  
Thurs Oct 18 … Lab 5: Review Quiz (class meets in HSC 227)  
Tues Oct 23 … Last day to withdraw from the course  
Tues Oct 23 … Lab 6: Lab Practical : 100 Pts (See Sakai for checklist and exam details: class meets in HSC 227)  
Tues Oct 30 … Review Quiz: DBL PPT  
Thurs Nov 1 … Test 2: 100 Pts (Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and previous material: see checklists)  
Tues Nov 8 .... Begin Group Projects  
Tues Nov 27 … Lab 7: 20 Pts (class meets in HSC 227)  
Thurs Nov 29 .. Presentations (50 pts) begin and will continue until Dec 6: Attendance mandatory  
Thurs Dec 6 ... Last day of class  
Date TBD … Final Exam (100 Pts) (Cumulative)

**In the rare event that classes are cancelled due to weather related University shutdown or other reasons, once classes resume the above schedule will likely remain firm. If classes are cancelled on a scheduled exam/quiz or assignment due date, the exam/quiz/assignment will be taken (or collected/due) the first class period that our class resumes. Otherwise, we may miss a few lectures, but all scheduling (assignments/tests) will likely continue as printed above. If any additional amendments to the schedule or course content are required, updates will be on Sakai.

Section IV: Testing

- Required materials: multiple sharpened #2 pencils and eraser  
- All tests are officially cumulative and may contain review questions from prior material, but the majority of test questions focus on information highlighted in the chapter checklists for the assigned chapters (See Section III for chapters on each test)  
- Tests are scheduled far in advance. Plan your schedule accordingly. If you have a personal conflict with a test date, the sooner you alert me, the more likely something can be done to accommodate you. The amount of advance notice generally required to accommodate you is variable, but you should think in terms of weeks not days or hours.  
- On the day of the test, I will not answer test content related questions and I will not answer content questions over email starting at 4PM the day before and continuing through the day of testing. I will personally provide you with more information than you likely ever wanted to know but don’t wait until the last minute to ask questions.  
- I retain all tests, quizzes, and some assignments for documentation. If you wish to review your materials after grading or dispute a grade, you must request an office hour appointment within 2 weeks of a grade being issued. After that time, all grades are finalized and all items are archived and no longer accessible.  
- All grades are continually updated on Sakai. Check Sakai frequently and immediately report any grading issues before the grades become permanent after that two week review period
Section V: Assignments

Assignments are due at a prescheduled date and time. **Assignments more than 2hrs late should be accompanied by an email (no later than 12hrs after the assignment deadline) from you documenting the late assignment and requesting an extension if needed.** All assignments over 2hrs late are subject to point penalties. Detailed information on all assignments will be posted on Sakai.

Section VI: Attendance / Make-up Policy

Section VI A: **Is attendance mandatory?**

- Yes!! This course is designed to promote learning through lecture, problem solving, classroom interactions, and other forms of active learning. Obviously attendance is extremely important for an active learning course model. The general attendance policy falls under 2 options. You are automatically enrolled under option 1 unless you specify otherwise. Attendance policy options are as follows.

**Default Option 1: Honor System/ Attendance based extra credit:**

Under this system attendance is mandatory but with greater flexibility representing more of an honor system code of conduct. It is assumed that you always attempt to attend class and turn in assignments on time. If you fail to do this, it is also assumed that you have an excellent reason for doing so. As appreciation for your honesty and professionalism, I give you 10 extra credit points and a flexible “no questions asked” attendance policy, as I do not require medical documentation or dean verification. All missed/late exams/quizzes/labs/assignments may be made up, regardless of excuse, as long as you notify me within 12 hours (see Section VI B) of the absence. However, the missed/late exams/quizzes/assignments all come with an automatic extra credit point penalty. Thus by choosing option 1 and accepting these 10 extra credit points, **you are also agreeing to the stipulation that these points will be removed usually in intervals of 5 up to 10 points, regardless of excuse, for late exams/quizzes/assignments.**

**Alternative Option 2: Traditional Attendance Policy/Research assignment Extra Credit**

In extreme cases of chronic illness or attendance related issues, where you have already accumulated 2 or more attendance/assignment offenses and have used up all (10pts) the free extra credit points, you may be switched to the more traditional system. In this system you will not receive automatic point penalties, but attendance/assignment flexibility no longer applies to you. All absences require an appropriate excuse and documentation (dean verification when applicable) to avoid penalty and permit make-up opportunities. Otherwise point penalties may still apply. Although this option is not commonly selected, if you know that absences will be a problem for you this semester and you are able to provide appropriate excuse/documentation, you can choose the more traditional system to start the semester by sending me an email request. Otherwise you will be enrolled under default option 1. Rather than earning extra credit through attendance, under this traditional option 2 system you can earn up to 10 extra credit points by completing an additional research assignment. This assignment must be completed prior to the second 100pt lecture exam. If interested, ask for details.
Section VI B: Can I make up missed tests/quizzes?

- It depends. If you miss a scheduled exam (test or quiz) and wish to make it up, you must email me (preferably before the exam but no later than 12 hours after the missed exam) to acknowledge your absence and request permission to make up the exam ASAP. Assuming you are enrolled under attendance option 1, all timely requests for a make up exam are approved regardless of excuse. An exam date, time, and location will be determined and an automatic 5pt late penalty will be applied. The free 10 points extra credit serves to reimburse you for these points in the event of an unfortunate absence on these dates. Exams are generally made up before or during the next scheduled class period following the missed exam. Failing to make up the exam in this time frame may result in additional point penalties. Some exceptions are made for medical or extreme situations but if the test can’t be made up in a timely manner (approx. 1 week), a zero will be awarded, and the grade on the final may serve as the replacement grade. If you know you will be absent on a given date, prior arrangements can be made for you to take the exam/quiz earlier and avoid the late penalty. Just notify me of the upcoming absence and if possible, I will accommodate you but sufficient advanced notice (generally 1-2 weeks) is required for taking the exams early to provide time for scheduling and generating the exam. Other accommodations can also be made for athletes or other university related obligations if prior notice and documentation is provided.

- What happens if I miss an assignment due date? Same general policy as above. If I am promptly notified (12 hour window), a new deadline will be determined and automatic point penalties will be applied.

Section VI C: Beware of Murphy, Prepare for Murphy

- Most of you are likely familiar with Murphy’s law: Anything that can go wrong will go wrong. Since sufficient advanced notice in not always possible and all late exams and assignments, regardless of excuse, are subject to a point (likely 5pts) penalty under attendance option 1, it is possible that Murphy (sickness, injury, travel problems, family matters, and other factors beyond your control) may cost some of you points. To make up for this, I add 10 extra credit points (see Section II D) to your overall total earned points. Thus, I have essentially given you 2 free amnesty events to counteract Murphy, but you can also take steps to reduce the influence of Murphy. Here are a few suggestions that may help minimize Murphy: study for exams well in advance, turn in assignments early, read and follow instructions carefully, frequently back up your computer and digital files to an external device, manage your time wisely, ask questions if you don’t understand, get plenty of sleep, and generally attempt to do what is needed to maintain the mental and physical health required for you to academically perform at high levels.

Section VII: Statement for students with disabilities:

- Any student who thinks he/she may need an accommodation based on a disability should contact me as soon as possible, as well as contact the Disability Support Service (DSS) office. The DSS office is located at 119 Alison Hall, Phone: 302-831-4643, www.udel.edu/DSS.

Section VIII: Statement on academic integrity:

- “All students must be honest and forthright in their academic studies. To falsify the results of one's research, to steal the words or ideas of another, to cheat on an assignment, or to allow or assist another to commit these acts corrupts the educational process. Students are expected to do their own work and
neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance. Any violation of this standard will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.”

- My advice: Without assumptions of academic integrity, university degrees are less meaningful. Thus universities may take rather severe action on what you may otherwise perceive as a minor violation. Beyond the immediate resulting failing grade on an assignment or course, various university sanctions and documentation of the event on your permanent transcript can be devastating to your long-term academic career and beyond. Most students play by the rules most of the time, but it only takes one mistake or a single act of misconduct to cause you great hardship and perhaps tarnish your entire academic record. In some cases violations are rather easy for the professor to catch. In other cases students are actually turned in by other students that have knowledge of the misconduct and are upset by the unfair advantage. Also keep in mind that the providers of answers and unauthorized assistance may also be sanctioned. **Be very careful not to inadvertently provide answers or assistance.** Protect your answers as much as possible during testing. Be very cautious when allowing other students access to your computer or digital files. To further protect yourself you should check out the online UD reference guide to academic integrity. It discusses the different types of violations (plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, and other academic misconduct) as well as proactive strategies for students.

**Section IX: Classroom Etiquette**

- Be respectful and refrain from talking during lecture

- Be respectful and refrain from behavior that may be disruptive or offensive to others

- It is always my intention to start class on time and end on time. At the end of class, if I lose track of time and go over, feel free to leave. This will remind me to look at the clock as I also have a tight schedule and have places I need to get to right after class.

- Unless it gets to be excessive, you do not need permission to enter or exit the classroom at any time (except during tests). However, be aware that this can be disruptive. Try to arrive to class on time and minimize disturbance when entering/exiting during lecture.

- Cell phones, laptops, tablets, and similar devices: You are expected to silence your cell phone during class. During a quiz/test all these devices must be kept stored away hidden from all lines of sight and **all usage of electronic devices during tests/quizzes is strictly prohibited and may be treated as academic misconduct** resulting in the immediate expulsion from the exam and/or course. Such violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Studies also suggest that students that take notes by hand experience a memory and test performance benefit compared to students that take notes on the laptop. Additionally, social networking, listening to music, and other recreational activities may be extremely distracting to others, hinder your ability to interact in the classroom, and are not appreciated. Thus, the only electronic devices we will welcome in class are the clickers.

- Cell phones, laptops, tablets, and similar devices are not permitted in the laboratory

- During student presentations, put away all electronic devices and give the student your full attention
Section X: Outside the Classroom: Office Hours, Appointments, and Email:

- Email me at any time. I will respond as quickly as possible.

- I get many emails on any given day, thus I quickly sort and prioritize them prior to opening and responding. *To ensure your email is not ignored, prioritized, and sorted appropriately, you must include your course and section number in the email subject heading (example: NSCI320 sec10).*

- To answer as many emails as possible I try to keep responses brief. As for complex content related questions, I will typically avoid answering them over email. Email is just an inefficient way to exchange complex course information. Additionally, brief email exchanges without appropriate context may lead to a misunderstanding of the material. Thus, if you ask a complex content related question over email that requires a detailed answer, I will likely just provide an answer during an upcoming class period (see below: ask the professor section) or invite you to office hours.

- Ask the professor: mailbox. At the beginning of each class, I will answer course content email questions from students. Just send me an email question or topic request and it will be addressed in class. Each question will be anonymously posted along with a corresponding discussion. It does take time to process and incorporate your requests into lecture. Allow 1 or 2 class periods, for an official response. Also feel free to directly ask questions during class or office hours.

- Office hours are commonly used by students to study course materials, review tests, discuss assignments, grades, and other concerns. Feel free to visit (no appointment necessary) during any regularly scheduled office hour. I will meet with you on a first come/first served basis as time permits. If you see that I am with a student, just let me know that you are waiting and then wait in the lobby area (Wolf Hall 4th floor) and I will be with you shortly. If you wish to schedule an appointment outside of regular office hours, I do have extra time slots that vary from week to week. These time slots are also on a first come/first served basis and often fill up quickly. Although this varies throughout the semester, generally at least a 2-3 day notice prior to a desired meeting date is required to find an open time slot outside of normal office hours that matches both of our schedules.

Section XI: Tips for Getting an A

- The first thing you should do with each unit is familiarize yourself with the study checklist provided on Sakai under the resources tab. The checklist provides a list of terms and key concepts that are fair game for the exams. The textbook provides a large amount of information so it is important that you use the provided checklists to focus your note taking and test preparation. When studying the key terms on the checklist, be careful not to narrowly focus on the brief definition. The paragraphs surrounding the basic definition may be just as important as well as any discussion involving the term throughout the chapter.

- Come to class prepared! Read and take notes on the material prior to class. Feverish note taking during class simply results in hand cramps and joint stiffness with very little intellectual benefit. Classroom awareness, critical thinking, and interactive discussions are all inhibited within a feverish note taking
classroom paradigm. There is no need for feverish note taking in this class as I have already provided you with a checklist of information that is on the test that is derived from your textbook. Furthermore, many topics are complex and difficult to understand. For the most efficient use of your time, it is extremely important that you come to class with at least some familiarity with the material. Lecture can then become more of an opportunity for clarification, interaction, questioning, repetition, and consolidation. Lectures and PowerPoint presentations also move very quickly and are simply intended to lead discussion. Information from PowerPoint slides can be found in the textbook and the slides are not intended to be copied in class. Rather, they serve as a reminder of what is in the chapter and on the checklist so that we may briefly discuss them. If you have already taken notes on the material, you can simply make minor updates and briefly supplement your notes during class. In summary, it is my intent that you spend very little time in class writing/note taking. This will free you up for listening, thinking, and interacting.

- Engage yourself/interact. Pay attention, contribute to class discussions, and ask questions. The class is designed with an emphasis on active learning to enhance understanding of the material, memory acquisition, and retention.

- Lectures and classroom activities may be customized for your needs. Take advantage of this. We will not have time to talk about everything on the study guide/checklist. To make the most efficient use of classroom time, I will focus activities, lecture, and discussions on topics requested by students. Send me an email request, and I will customize the lecture/classroom activities to best fit your needs.

- The course is cumulative. Use study skills that emphasize long term retention. Repeated exposure and deep processing are important. Study often, avoid cramming, and frequently review prior material. Don’t get too far behind.

- General rule of thumb: for every hour in class plan to spend 2-3 hours outside of class learning the material. Outside of class I would allocate about 2/3rds of this allotted time to preparing for the new material for the next lecture and the remaining (1/3) time for reviewing previous material.

- Form a small study group. This can have many benefits: comrader, support, motivation, enhanced awareness, and interactive learning. One extremely effective way to deeply process and learn the material is to attempt to teach it to someone else.

- Contrary to popular belief, what you don’t know will hurt you. Actually, since the course is cumulative, what you don’t know will likely repeatedly hurt you. Many students don’t realize that they don’t know something until they see it on the exam and attempt to answer the question. Commonly, the difference between an “A” student and a “B” student is that the “A” student has a greater awareness of what they don’t know. This allows them to better prepare for exams, research the deficient area, ask questions for clarification, and fill in these gaps in knowledge prior to the exam. If you commonly go into an exam with confidence and then leave the exam confused, this advice likely applies to you. There are many techniques you can use to improve your awareness of knowledge deficiencies or knowing what you don’t know.

- Knowing class trends may also be helpful so I am also providing the following information. Many students get their lowest score on the first test. Most students report that they didn’t know what to expect and were underprepared for the first test. As students modify their preparation approach, averages on the
following tests and final tend to move upward. Despite the increasing scores, students typically report that the sequential tests get progressively harder due to the cumulative nature of the course.

- Lab: Another interesting trend is that many students report that the lab practical was the most difficult exam of the semester with some students scoring less than 10% on the practical. Perceiving 3 dimensional space and spatial relationships between the neuroanatomical structures is conceptually difficult for many students and the practical testing format (fill in the blank) requires that you have an excellent grasp of the material. The first 5 individual labs are designed to get you ready for the lab practical and give you unique access to the hands-on study materials (models and biological specimens). Access to these materials is limited to the scheduled labs. Use your limited time in each lab wisely to maximize your interactions with the testing materials and enhance learning. Similar to each classroom lecture, you should read ahead and study your lab atlas prior to the labs. A study checklist for the lab is provided in Appendix B of this syllabus. I have also noticed that many students waste a great deal of lab time trying to navigate the lab atlas to find the appropriate brain structures. Use time ahead of lab to familiarize yourself with the atlas and maybe even add tabs or bookmarks to particular pages. This will allow you to more efficiently navigate the atlas as you identify structures for the lab exercises. Your efforts in lab will not only benefit you on the lab practical (100pts) but in lecture as well. All lecture exams as well as the final exam contain a significant neuroanatomy component.

- Don’t hesitate to ask questions and/or seek assistance

**Section XII: Frequently Asked Questions**

- Do I have to take the final even if I do not need to replace a grade?  
  *Yes, the final is required. It can be used to replace a test score, but it is also a stand-alone gradebook item worth 100pts that can’t be dropped or replaced.*

- Can I use the grade on the final exam to replace the lab practical grade?  
  *No. It can be only used to replace one of the lecture tests.*

- Can I retake an exam or quiz? Missed exams/quizzes may be made-up but if you have already taken the exam/quiz, retakes are not permitted. However, as stated before, the final exam may function similar to a retake as the % grade on the final can replace your lowest test score.

- If I do miss a class, lab, or a test or something, do I need a doctor’s note or written excuse documentation. *Under attendance option 1(section VI A), no documentation is needed. All absences (excused/unexcused) are treated the same, and all point penalties apply. However, I do need written notice simply acknowledging your absence within 12 hours, if you wish to schedule a make-up. See attendance option 2 for alternative.*
- Under the default attendance option, beyond the final test replacement grade and the extra credit (up to 15 pts) described in Section II D, are there any other ways to acquire extra credit?

  Occasionally, opportunities arise where I may offer the class a couple of extra credit points for various activities, but otherwise, additional extra credit is not available. Plan accordingly.

- Do I really need the textbook(s)?

  Yes, the entire course is heavily focused on the textbook(s). The study checklists also make specific references to specific figures and page numbers in the textbook.

- The textbook mentions many names of scientists and dates including authors and specific scientific studies. Do I need to know all these studies and associated names (e.g. Smith et al., 2007) for the exams?

  Occasionally, but only if they are listed on the study checklist. If I want you to know a specific person, that individual’s name (e.g. Sigmund Freud) will be listed under the key terms or key concepts section of the checklist. If I want you to know the details of a specific study (e.g. Smith et al. 2007), the study citation will be listed in the key concepts section of the checklist.

- Class moves quickly and I am unable to copy the slides or take many notes

  Good, I really don’t want you taking many notes in class (see section XI, second paragraph). Use your checklist and textbook to review and take notes on the material prior to class. This will free up class time for listening, thinking, and interacting. Rather than basic acquisition of the exam material (this is primarily what your textbook is for), try to approach lecture with a greater emphasis on understanding, clarification, and consolidation.

- For taking notes prior to class how do I know what will be covered in the upcoming class?

  The class lecture proceeds chapter by chapter in a systematic order as outlined on the checklist and syllabus. We generally spend about 1 or 2 lectures per chapter. This varies depending on student requests and the amount of material in the chapter. During class I will give frequent updates about the general content of upcoming lectures. If you are still not sure, just send me an email and I can quickly provide a detailed outline for the upcoming week.

- I am not doing as well as I would like, what do I do?

  There is not a great universal answer for this question as every person has a different set of circumstances. However, it is generally true that if you keep doing what you are doing, you will keep getting what you are getting. Thus, you need to make some changes. For many people, the required change may be simply devoting more time to learning the material. For others, it is far more complicated. For a more detailed analysis of your situation, I would be happy to schedule a meeting with you and provide additional feedback specific to your situation.

Have a great semester! I look forward to interacting with you. If you need anything, please let me know.
Appendix A

Laboratory Rules and Information

- No food, drinks, or guests

- No electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, lap tops, cameras, etc.)
  - Human specimens should never be photographed

- All book bags and personal belongings other than a lab atlas, notebook, and writing utensils should be left in the clean locker and backpack area. Space in the locker area is limited. Please minimize the personal belongings you bring with you to lab.

- The locker area is meant to be a clean area, do not wear gloves (clean or dirty) in that area and always wash your hands before using the lockers. You may place a lock on the lockers to secure personal items during class. The lock must be removed at the end of class.

- When biological specimens are present, personal protective equipment must be worn
  
  * Goggles, 8 mil nitrile gloves, appropriate clothing, no open toe shoes

- All dirty gloves and other contaminated materials should be thrown away in the boxes with the red biohazard bags. Non-contaminated trash can be placed in the regular trash can.

- Avoid touching models, doorknobs, and other room fixtures with dirty gloves

- Gloves should not be worn outside the classroom. If you need to leave the classroom and return, discard your gloves before you leave and get a new pair of gloves when you return

- Brains are delicate. Be careful! Brains should never be touched with metal probes, pens, pencils, or other solid objects. Instead cotton balls may be twisted to create a disposable pointer/stylus.

- Likewise, do not use pens or pencils when pointing/interacting with models. Use some other stylus or probe that will not leave a mark on the model.

- Formalin is a hazardous chemical used in the laboratory. Be sure to read the material data safety sheet for formalin

- Wash your hands prior to leaving the laboratory
Appendix B: Lab Practical Description and Checklist

Goal: The main purpose of the lab is to enhance your understanding of neuroanatomy. It is difficult to acquire an enhanced understanding of complex 3-dimensional neuroanatomical structures by simply studying pictures and abstract representations in a 2-dimensional textbook. Thus to give you a better appreciation for the size, shape, texture, connectivity, and general complexity of spatial relationships between neuroanatomical structures, we are providing you with the real thing as well as lifelike models.

Lab practical: Towards the end of the semester, we will have a test (i.e. lab practical) over these models and actual brain specimens. Many students report that this is the most difficult exam of the entire semester but perhaps the most important as related content appears throughout the textbook and on all the lecture exams. To begin studying for this lab practical (100 Pts), it may be useful to first understand how the exam is administered. You will be provided with the answer sheet that has question numbers and blanks for you to complete. Brain models and biological specimens will be placed at stations around the room and students will systematically rotate from station to station identifying indicated structures by writing the name of the structure in the blank provided on the answer sheet. Structures are commonly indicated on the specimens and models with push pins, stickers, and other small pointing devices. There will be about 20 to 30 stations and each station will likely have at least 2 associated questions written on note cards in front of the specimens. For example, one notecard may read, “For question 2A) Identify the structure indicated by the green pin.” You then look up at a brain slice and note that the green pin is sitting in the hippocampus. Thus you would write hippocampus on the appropriate answer blank. For example,

1A _________________________
1B _________________________
2A ___Hippocampus_______
2B _________________________

Note that some structures may be used more than once on the test, other structures from the lab checklist may not appear at all. You will now continue to rotate around the lab answering questions for each station. Rotations are completed rather quickly with strict time constraints for each station. The instructor will tell you when to rotate to the next station. Fill in all answers as you go as time limitations do not permit students to return to previously visited stations. All exams are immediately collected after the final rotation is completed.

You will have several labs to prepare for this lab practical. During these labs you will work in small groups to complete a lab worksheet. However, for the lab practical you are tested individually. A checklist/study guide is provided on the next page indicating all the structures you may be asked to identify on a model or actual specimen for the lab practical. First begin studying these structures on the checklist in textbooks or online resources so that you may efficiently apply this knowledge to the lab models and actual specimens that you encounter on these scheduled lab dates.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structures</th>
<th>More Structures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amygdala</td>
<td>Optic Radiations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brainstem</td>
<td>Periaqueductal Grey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caudate Nucleus</td>
<td>Pons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capsules: Internal, External, and Extreme</td>
<td>Putamen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebellum</td>
<td>Red Nucleus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebellum: Arbor Vitae and Folia</td>
<td>Reticular activating system (Reticular Formation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebellum: Cerebellar Peduncles and Vermis</td>
<td>Septum Pellucidum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrum</td>
<td>Substantia Nigra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choroid Plexus</td>
<td>Sulcus/Fissure: Calcarine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claustrum</td>
<td>Sulcus/Fissure: Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colliculus: Superior and Inferior</td>
<td>Sulcus/Fissure: Longitudinal and Lateral (Sylvian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commisures: Anterior and Posterior</td>
<td>Sulcus/Fissure: Olfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corpus Callosum</td>
<td>Sulcus/Fissure: Superior Temporal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Broca's Area</td>
<td>Tectum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Cerebral (Neocortex)</td>
<td>Tegmentum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Extrastriate</td>
<td>Thalamus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Fusiform Face Area</td>
<td>Ventricle: Lateral: Anterior, Posterior, and Inf. Horns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Insular or Insula</td>
<td>Ventricle: Interventricular Foramen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: parahippocampal place area (PPA)</td>
<td>Ventricle: Third and Fourth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Piriform</td>
<td>Ventricle: Cerebral Aqueduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Prefrontal Cortex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Prefrontal Cortex: Ventromedial or Orbitofrontal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Premotor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Primary Auditory</td>
<td>Location and Function of primary sensory cortices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Primary Gustatory</td>
<td>Pattern of flow of CSF through the ventricles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Primary Motor</td>
<td>The location of all structures relative to ventricles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Primary Somatosensory</td>
<td>The location of all structures relative to each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Primary Visual (Striate or V1)</td>
<td>The relative shape and size of each structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortex: Wernicke's Area</td>
<td>Structures within structures, categorization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranial Nerve: #1: Olfactory Bulb and Tract</td>
<td>White matter vs Gray Matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranial Nerve #2: Optic Nerve, Chiasm, and Tract</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranial nerve: #8: Vestibulocochlear Nerve</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranial Nerve: #10: Vagus nerve</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crus Cerebri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fornix</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geniculate Nucleus: Medial and Lateral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gland: Pituitary and Pineal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globus Pallidus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyrus: Cingulate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyrus: Precentral and Postcentral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyrus: Superior Temporal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyrus: Uncus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hippocampus (Hippocampal formation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothalamus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobe: Frontal, Temporal, Occipital, and Parietal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locus Coeruleus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammillary Body</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massa Intermedia (interthalamic adhesion)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medulla</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meninges: Dura and Pia Mater, Arachnoid Membrane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midbrain (Mesencephalon)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nucleus Accumbens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C: Final Grade Prediction

To estimate your likely grade in the course, please fill out the survey below.

1. On average, including class time I will spend _______ on this class each week.
   1) 0-3hrs
   2) 4-7hrs
   3) 8-11hrs

2. I will use the provided checklist to take notes on upcoming materials **prior to** covering it in lecture.
   1) rarely
   2) occasionally
   3) frequently

3. I will use the provided lab checklist to locate and familiarize myself with brain structures **prior to** lab.
   1) rarely
   2) occasionally
   3) frequently

4. The course is cumulative so I will make a strong effort to continuously review previous chapters/checklists.
   1) rarely
   2) occasionally
   3) frequently

5. I will attend class and during class I will pay attention, ask questions if I don’t understand, volunteer to answer questions, and participate in classroom discussions.
   1) rarely
   2) occasionally
   3) frequently

6. I plan to participate in at least some of these healthy study habits, such as keep a written record logging my study time, avoid cramming and spread out my study time over smaller regular intervals, repetition, deep processing, know what I don’t know, review material missed on previous tests/quizzes, get a reasonable amount of sleep, join a study group, and attend office hours if I need more help outside the classroom.
   1) rarely
   2) occasionally
   3) frequently

7. I will take advantage of the “Ask the Professor Program” to customize lecture so that it best fits my needs.
   1) rarely
   2) occasionally
   3) frequently

8. In other courses, such as natural science classes (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), that also cover complex material and require a great deal of memorization and application, I typically _________.
   1) do poorly or avoid such courses
   2) score around the class average
   3) do very well

9. Compared to other students in this class, I would characterize my academic background or knowledge in the natural sciences (physics, chemistry, biology) as _________
   1) weak
   2) average
   3) strong

10. On average, including class time I will spend _______ on this class each week (yes, this is a repeat of question 1 as it is intended to weigh most heavily on the survey results).
    1) 0-3hrs
    2) 4-7hrs
    3) 8-11hrs
Appendix C: results
Each of the 10 survey questions has 3 answers. Add up the numbers in front of the answers you chose. For example, if you chose number 3 for each answer for all 10 questions, you will end up with a score of 30. Thus, total scores will range from 10 -30 points. Based on several semesters of student feedback and performance in this course, below is a breakdown of your expected grade outcome. There are always exceptions to the rule and grade correlations with this survey will vary from person to person, but I think this survey gives you a starting point for course grade expectations and provides you with a list of factors/predictors that are likely to affect your grade.

Tip: If you know you are likely to be deficient in some of these predictor categories (i.e. answered with a 1 or 2), it may be wise to try to compensate for those deficiencies by enhancing performance in some of these other predictors/ categories.

28-30 pts = A
26-27 pts = A-
24-25 pts = B+
22-23 pts = B
20-21 pts = B-
19 pts or less: C, D, or F seems likely