

# COMS30017

## *Computational Neuroscience*

**Dr. Laurence Aitchison**

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# Course content

- All the course content is going to be on the GitHub page, linked from BB
- The lecturer Q&As + TA led bubbles happen on Teams in the "COMS30017: Computational Neuroscience (Teaching Unit) 2021/22 (TB-1, A)" Team.

# Course structure

- Weeks 1-7: Video lectures
  - most weeks come with question sheets
  - please watch these during the week
- Weeks 1-8: live Q+A session.
  - Monday 12-1pm
  - Should be recorded (please remind me if I'm not recording)
  - Hosted on Teams
- Weeks 2-7: TA-led bubble discussions.
  - Wednesday 11-12am
  - Hosted on Teams
  - Bubble assignments will happen this week, in prep for the first session on Wed. 6th October

# My suggestion

- Try to watch ~1 video per week day. Consider scheduling a “slot” to watch the videos
- Try to answer the question sheets yourself
- If something is not clear, bring it to:
  - the lecturer Q&A
  - the TA-led bubble sessions
  - the reddit discussion board

# Unit lecturer(s)

- Dr Laurence Aitchison

[laurence.aitchison@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:laurence.aitchison@bristol.ac.uk)

[www.gatsby.ucl.ac.uk/~laurence/](http://www.gatsby.ucl.ac.uk/~laurence/)



- There was supposed to be another lecturer, but she's having unanticipated bureaucracy issues. Hopefully she'll get those sorted. But in her absence, we will end up also seeing:
  - Introductory lectures from Cian O'Donnell:
    - (please don't try to get in touch with Cian, as he's left Bristol; I'll be running the Q&A sessions).
  - Lectures on synapses from Conor Houghton

# What this course is about

- Learn how the brain works from a computational point of view
- Appreciate the methods and ideas underlying research in the area of computational neuroscience



Elon Musk  
@elonmusk

Replying to @elonmusk

A prior track record of exceptional achievement in engineering *\*is\** required, but *\*no\** prior experience working on the brain or human physiology is required. We will teach you what's known about the brain, which is not much tbh.

6:19 PM · Sep 19, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

1.1K Retweets 765 Quote Tweets 23.8K Likes

# What this course **not** is about

- Brain inspired computing
- Deep learning / artificial intelligence

# Have a question about the lecture material / question sheets

- Discuss with your peers!
- Ask the lecturer in the Q&A
- Ask in the TA-led bubble
- Ask a question on the unit reddit forum



Have fun and enjoy the course!