

Course goals

By the end of the course, students will know:

- How a mouse functions, how it senses what's around it, and how it evolved
- How mice interact with their environments (natural and captive)
- Why mice are popular lab animals for research and testing, and how they may be replaced
- How to analyze related or disparate facts and synthesize a novel approach to an existing situation or problem

Course format:

The course is primarily lecture-based but there are also 3 labs (during regularly scheduled class time), and students will present their work during class.

Typical enrollees:

This class is appropriate for OEB concentrators as well as other STEM-based concentrators. That said, the course is not massively technical and students from less technical concentrations have also succeeded in the course.

When is course typically offered?

Fall

What can students expect from you as an instructor?

I teach this course because I really like mice. It's that simple. (Special interest ahoy?) I'm trying to impart how cool they are to you as someone perhaps unfamiliar with them. I appreciate class participation, even though it can be hard at 9am.

Assignments and grading:

The course is project-based. Students are assigned to groups and must work together to select a project and present on it at the end of the semester. Students also rate their own and their group's performance. 60% of the grade is based on the project and the team's evaluation.

Sample reading list:

Readings are generally primary literature.

Enrollment cap, selection process, notification:

There is an enrollment cap of 20. Seniors are prioritized. OEB concentrators are given slightly more weight, but the course is broadly applicable to other concentrations and a wide variety of concentrators have taken the class. If you are petitioning for admission, please provide information about your interest in the class and how it will help you meet your goals in my.harvard. You'll be notified of acceptance by being able to enroll in the class.

Past syllabus:

The course will be taught similarly to how it was in the past, but the syllabus is being edited and updated.

Absence and late work policies:

Attendance and participation count toward the final grade (40%). Excused absences are not counted against the student. Late work incurs a penalty to the group, but deadlines are generous.