
Here is the complete [spring 2024 syllabus](#). Keep reading below for the highlights.

Course goals:

The goals of this course are for you to be able to:

- understand the mechanisms the nervous system uses to protect itself from invaders
- list pathogens that can bypass those defenses and describe how they accomplish it
- explain how we might use those pathogenic mechanisms in research/therapeutics
- understand the link between cellular mechanisms of infection and human physiology/disease
- develop critical reading and data interpretation skills to assess and analyze scientific literature
- develop the tools to explore the subject further on your own

Course format:

The course will consist of weekly lectures and discussions. Each Wednesday, there will be a lecture about a different set of pathogens that invade the CNS and cause disease. The following Monday, 1-2 students will lead a discussion on recent paper(s) that are related to the previous lecture. All students are expected to read the paper(s) before coming to class so that you are ready to participate in the discussion.

Assignments and grading:

Students will be expected to submit a ~1-page write-up related to the paper(s) under discussion for the week on Sunday night. Each student will be responsible for leading a discussion of a recent paper(s) once during the semester. Submission of the weekly write-up is not required during the week you lead the Monday discussion. Each student will also complete one writing assignment due during the final exam period (details to follow) to help you practice scientific writing and citing. Finally, there will be 2 exams. Details and due dates for all assignments will be posted on the course website.

exam #1	20%
exam #2	20%
weekly write-ups	14%
presentation	15%
class participation	16%
writing assignment	15%

Enrollment cap, selection process, notification:

Enrollment will be by lottery (capped at 18 students). To enter the lottery for this course, please fill out [this google form](#) by 11:59 PM EST on Wednesday, November 8th. I will email out the results on the 9th.

Prerequisites will be enforced, and Neuroscience concentrators will get preference in the lottery.

Absence and late work policies:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all discussions. Participation credit will be given for discussion and in-class activities (see 'grading' above).

Excused Absences: Please make every attempt to inform the teaching staff in advance of any planned absences (travel/interviewing, family/health emergencies, religious days, sports/extracurricular activities). Make up assignments will only be allowed at the discretion of the instructor with advance notice.

Late Assignments will not be accepted; no credit will be given. To receive credit, please hand in all assignments prior to posted deadlines.