UNSW Course Outline

NEUR4411 Behavioural Perspectives in Neuroscience - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : NEUR4411
Year : 2024
Term : Term 1
Teaching Period : T1
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Medicine and Health
Academic Unit : School of Biomedical Sciences
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The course is an introduction to psychophysiology and behavioural neuroscience, i.e. the

rigorous empirical study of mind-body relations. The course includes lectures by a range of discipline experts presenting on a broad array of topics in behavioural neuroscience, including animal and human research methods. It is designed specifically for Neuroscience Honours students.

Course Aims

To develop your theoretical knowledge base in biomedical neuroscience.

To develop your capacity for critical analysis of the primary literature.

To develop your ability to concisely present scientific data.

To develop your ability to communicate scientific research to a lay audience.

Relationship to Other Courses

Assistance with progression checking:

If you are unsure how this course fits within your program, you can seek guidance on optimising your program structure from staff at the Nucleus Student Hub.

- Progression plans for UNSW Medicine and Health programs can be found on the UNSW Medicine & Health website.
- Progression plans for UNSW Science programs can be found on the UNSW Science website.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Identify techniques and approaches used in the study of behavioural neuroscience in humans and animals, including recent advances in technology and methods.
CLO2 : Analyse empirical evidence in behavioural neuroscience as it applies to understanding key brain and psychological mechanisms underlying human functioning and mental health disorders.
CLO3 : Evaluate the role of behavioural neuroscience in the translation pipeline from basic science to the clinic.
CLO4 : Apply skills of critical thinking, conceptual analysis and oral and written expression to behavioural neuroscience field.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Identify techniques and approaches used in the study of behavioural neuroscience in humans and animals, including recent advances in technology and methods.	• Group Presentation • Final Exam
CLO2 : Analyse empirical evidence in behavioural neuroscience as it applies to understanding key brain and psychological mechanisms underlying human functioning and mental health disorders.	• Essay on Neuroscience related topic • Group Presentation
CLO3 : Evaluate the role of behavioural neuroscience in the translation pipeline from basic science to the clinic.	• Essay on Neuroscience related topic • Final Exam
CLO4 : Apply skills of critical thinking, conceptual analysis and oral and written expression to behavioural neuroscience field.	• Group Presentation • Essay on Neuroscience related topic • Final Exam

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Microsoft Teams

Learning and Teaching in this course

All course materials and course announcements are provided on the course learning management system, Moodle (or Open Access).

By accessing and using the ICT resources provided by UNSW, you are agreeing to abide by the 'Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources' policy particularly on respect for intellectual property and copyright, legal and ethical use of ICT resources and security and privacy.

Additional Course Information

This course involves compulsory weekly 2-hour seminars that will adhere to the following format:

- 50 min - Introduction to topic, focusing on discipline-specific techniques and approaches.

o What is the big question we are trying to answer in this field?

o How can this question be addressed using behavioural neuroscience?

- 10 min break

- 50 min – In depth discussion of empirical paper showing application of this approach

- 10 minutes for general questions and discussion

Required readings will be posted to Moodle 1 week prior to class.

Students are reminded that UNSW recommends that a 6 units-of-credit course should involve about 150 hours of study and learning activities. The formal learning activities total approximately 20 hours contact-time throughout the term and students are expected (and strongly recommended) to do at least the same number of hours of additional study (outside of assessments).

Each seminar is interactive and involves discussion, therefore students are strongly encouraged to participate in-person. If unable to attend due to medical or other necessary reasons, immediately contact the course co-ordinator and provision will be made to join via Teams or Zoom. Evidence relating to the absence must be submitted. Sessions will not be recorded.

Students are expected to participate through discussion in seminars and with questions in the two group presentation sessions. This will lead to a more enjoyable and richer learning experience for all involved.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Group Presentation Assessment Format: Group	30%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 4: 04 March - 10 March, Week 5: 11 March - 17 March Post Date: 26/03/2024 05:00 PM
Essay on Neuroscience related topic Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 22/03/2024 05:00 PM Post Date: 05/04/2024 05:00 PM
Final Exam Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 30/04/2024 10:00 AM Post Date: 14/05/2024 10:00 AM

Assessment Details

Group Presentation

Assessment Overview

Early in the term you will be required to participate in a single 20-30 minute group presentation carried out in class. 5-10 minutes will be allocated for questions and discussion. You will be

allocated to a group (2-4 students/group, depending on class size) to present a journal article assigned by the course coordinators. This presentation will be prepared using PowerPoint and delivered either via Teams or in person.

You will be marked individually based on your performance and receive brief written feedback from the tutorial facilitator/ course coordinator within 10 working days of your presentation. Marks will be allocated based on the content and clarity of each individual's presentation (visual and verbal), as well as capacity to answer questions and engage in discussion.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify techniques and approaches used in the study of behavioural neuroscience in humans and animals, including recent advances in technology and methods.
- CLO2 : Analyse empirical evidence in behavioural neuroscience as it applies to understanding key brain and psychological mechanisms underlying human functioning and mental health disorders.
- CLO4 : Apply skills of critical thinking, conceptual analysis and oral and written expression to behavioural neuroscience field.

Detailed Assessment Description

Group allocation and papers will be assigned in Week 1 of class with details posted on Moodle.

Assessment Length

20-30 minutes

Submission notes

No short extension is available for this assessment task, since it is a group assignment.

Assessment information

For this assessment task, your group may use AI-based software to research and prepare prior to preparing your slides and presentation text for this assessment. You are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software but this permitted use is limited to spelling and grammar checking and reference citation generation in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that if your marker has concerns that your presentation or slides contain passages of AI-generated text you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Essay on Neuroscience related topic

Assessment Overview

You will write a 4 page (double spaced) essay on a contemporary issue in behavioural neuroscience, due mid-term. The exact topic will vary from year to year. You will be required to summarise and critically evaluate the primary literature and provide references to justify your stance.

You will receive marks based on the structure, content and narrative of the essay, as well how well you use evidence to support any arguments, and your ability to show evidence of critical thinking and insight. Brief written feedback and marks will be provided by the tutor/course coordinator within 10 working days of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Analyse empirical evidence in behavioural neuroscience as it applies to understanding key brain and psychological mechanisms underlying human functioning and mental health disorders.
- CLO3 : Evaluate the role of behavioural neuroscience in the translation pipeline from basic science to the clinic.
- CLO4 : Apply skills of critical thinking, conceptual analysis and oral and written expression to behavioural neuroscience field.

Detailed Assessment Description

The essay topic will be revealed in Week 1 of class with details posted in Moodle.

Assessment Length

4 pages (double spaced, not including references)

Submission notes

A short extension of two days is available for this assessment task.

Assessment information

For this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to research and prepare prior to writing your assessment. You are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software but this permitted use is limited to spelling and grammar checking and reference citation generation in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Final Exam

Assessment Overview

At the end of the term, you will complete an exam including multiple choice or short answer questions from the weekly seminars and assigned readings. The exam will be prepared for delivery either in person or online via Moodle.

Assessment will probe an understanding of the topics covered and will be marked by the tutor and / or course coordinator. Marks for this assessment (without other feedback) will be released with the final grades for the term.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify techniques and approaches used in the study of behavioural neuroscience in humans and animals, including recent advances in technology and methods.
- CLO3 : Evaluate the role of behavioural neuroscience in the translation pipeline from basic science to the clinic.
- CLO4 : Apply skills of critical thinking, conceptual analysis and oral and written expression to behavioural neuroscience field.

Detailed Assessment Description

The exam will be prepared for delivery online using Inspera.

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

Assessment Length

7-10 short answer questions, 2 hours

Submission notes

No short extension is available for this assessment task, since it is an exam.

Assessment information

No assistance from artificial intelligence is permitted for this assessment. It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If such use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

General Assessment Information

Detailed instructions regarding assessments for this course are provided on the course Moodle page (or Open Learning).

For student information on results, grades, and guides to assessment see: https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course students must:

- Achieve a composite grade of at least 50 out of 100
- Meet any additional requirements specified in the assessment details section and on Moodle.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Workshop	Introduction to NEUR4411 and Behavioural Neuroscience. Dr Kelly Clemens
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Workshop	Modelling mental health disorders: Impulsivity and compulsivity. Dr Karly Turner
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Workshop	Gut-brain signalling and appetite control: implications for obesity. Dr Zhi Yi Ong
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Assessment	Group Presentations 1 (groups 1-3). A/Prof Kelly Clemens
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Assessment	Group Presentations 2 (groups 4-6). A/Prof Kelly Clemens
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Assessment	Flex Week - no class. Essay due on 22nd March, 2024
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Workshop	Oxytocin – more than just a love hormone? Dr Justine Fam
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Workshop	Trauma as a risk factor across mental health disorders. Dr Yann Quide
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Workshop	Exploring the basis of auditory hallucinations in schizophrenia. Prof Tom Whitford
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Workshop	Do you hear what I see? Echolocation in the blind. Dr Erin Goddard
Week 12 : 29 April - 5 May	Assessment	Final Exam

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, 10-12 in Mathews Lecture Theatre C.

The expected engagement for all UNSW 6UOC courses is 150 hours per term. This includes lectures, tutorials, readings, and completion of assessments and exam preparation (if relevant).

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Resources for this course are provided on the course Moodle page.

Recommended Resources

Recommended resources for this course are provided on the course Moodle page.

Additional Costs

There are no additional costs associated with this course.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based, in part, on such feedback.

We use student feedback from myExperience surveys to develop and make improvements to the course each year. We do this by identifying areas of the course that require development from both the rating responses and written comments. Please spare a few minutes to complete the myExperience surveys for this course posted at the top of the Moodle page at the end of term.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Kelly Clemens		Contact by email	Contact by email	By appointment	Yes	Yes
	Erin Goddard		Contact by email	Contact by email	By appointment	No	No
Lecturer	Justine Fam		Contact by email	Contact by email	By appointment	No	No
	Karly Turner		Contact by email	Contact by email	By appointment	No	No
	Zhi Yi Ong		Contact by email	Contact by email	By appointment	No	No
	Thomas Whitford		Contact by email	Contact by email	By appointment	No	No
	Yann Quide		Contact by email	Contact by email	By appointment	No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

As a student of UNSW Medicine & Health you are expected to familiarise yourself with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW Student Code and policies and procedures related to your studies.

Student Code of Conduct

Throughout your time studying at UNSW Medicine & Health, you share a responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment. This includes within the courses you undertake during your degree and your interactions with the UNSW community, both on campus and online.

The UNSW Student Code of Conduct website provides a framework for the standard of conduct expected of UNSW students with respect to both academic integrity and your responsibility as a UNSW citizen.

Where the University believes a student may have breached the code, the University may take disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Misconduct Procedure.

The Student Conduct and Integrity Office provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student at UNSW.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

Academic integrity

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to the principle of academic integrity, and ethical scholarship of learning is fundamental to your success at UNSW Medicine & Health.

Plagiarism, contract cheating, and inappropriate use of generative AI undermine academic integrity and are not tolerated at UNSW. For more information see the Academic Integrity and Plagiarism toolkit.

In addition to the information you are required to review in your ELISE training, UNSW Medicine & Health strongly recommends that you complete the Working with Academic Integrity module before submitting your first assessment task.

Referencing

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. Preferred referencing styles vary among UNSW Medicine & Health disciplines, so check your course Learning Management System (e.g. Moodle or Open Learning) page for information on preferred referencing styles.

For further information on referencing support and styles, see the Current Student Referencing page.

Academic misconduct and plagiarism

At UNSW, academic misconduct is managed in accordance with the Student Misconduct Procedure. Allegations of plagiarism are generally handled according to the UNSW Plagiarism Management Procedure. Plagiarism is defined in the UNSW Plagiarism Policy and is not tolerated at UNSW.

Use of Generative AI and other tools in your assessment

UNSW has provided guiding statements for the use of Generative AI in assessments. This will differ, depending on the individual assessment task, your course requirements, and the course

stage within your program.

Your course convenor will outline if and how you can use Generative AI in each your assessment tasks. Options for the use of generative AI include: (1) no assistance; (2) simple editing assistance; (3) planning assistance; and (4) full assistance with attribution.

You may be required to submit the original generative AI responses, or drafts of your original work. Inappropriate use of generative AI is considered academic misconduct.

See your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page for the full instructions for individual assessment tasks for your course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Short extensions and special consideration

Short extension

Commencing in Term 1, 2024, UNSW has introduced a short extension procedure for submission of assessment tasks. Not all tasks are eligible, and eligible tasks have a predetermined extension length. UNSW Medicine and Health have set School-level extension lengths for eligible assessment tasks. See your course assessment descriptions for more information.

Students must check the availability of a short extension in the individual assessment task information for their courses.

Short extensions do not require supporting documentation. They must be submitted before the assessment task deadline. No late applications will be accepted.

Late penalties apply to submission of assessment tasks without approved extension.

Special consideration

In cases where short term events beyond your control affect your performance in a specific assessment task you may formally apply for Special Consideration through myUNSW.

UNSW has a **Fit to Sit rule**, which means that by sitting an examination on the scheduled date, you are declaring that you are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. Examinations include centrally timetabled examinations and scheduled, timed examinations and tests managed by your School.

Important information relating to Short Extension and Special Consideration is available here, including eligibility for Special Consideration, circumstances where students with Equitable Learning Plans can apply for Short Extensions and Special Consideration, and the appeals process.

Examinations

Information about the conduct of examinations in your course is provided on your course Moodle page.

Timed online assessment tasks

If you experience a technical or connection problem during a timed online assessment, such as a timed quiz, you can apply for Special Consideration. To be eligible to apply you need to contact the Course Convenor and advise them of the issue immediately. You will need to submit an application for Special Consideration immediately, and upload screenshots, error messages or other evidence of the technical issue as supporting documentation. Additional information can be found on: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

Other assessment tasks

Late submission of assessment tasks

UNSW has standard late submission penalties as outlined in the UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure, with no permitted variation. All late assignments (unless extension or exemption previously agreed) will be penalised by 5% of the maximum mark per calendar day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays).

Late submissions penalties are capped at five calendar days (120 hours). This means that a student is not permitted to submit an assessment more than 5 calendar days (120 hours) after the due date for that assessment (unless extension or exemption previously agreed).

Failure to complete an assessment task

You are expected to complete all assessment tasks for your courses. In some courses, there will be a minimum pass mark required on a specific assessment task (a “hurdle task”) due to the need to assure clinical competency.

Where a hurdle task is applicable, additional information is provided in the assessment

information on your course Moodle page.

Feedback on assessments

Feedback on your performance in assessment tasks will be provided to you in a timely manner. For assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, feedback will be provided within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances.

Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Any variation from the above information that is specific to an assessment task will be clearly indicated in the course and assessment information provided to you on your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

The university offers a wide range of support services that are available for students. Here are some links for you to explore.

- The Current Students Gateway: https://student.unsw.edu.au
- Academic Skills and Support: https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills
- Student support: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing

Mind Smart Guides are a series of mental health self-help resources designed to give you the psychological flexibility, resilience and self-management skills you need to thrive at university and at work.

- Mind Smart Guides: https://student.unsw.edu.au/mindsmart
- Equitable Learning Services: https://student.unsw.edu.au/els

- Guide to studying online: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/online-study

Most courses in UNSW Medicine & Health use Moodle as your Learning Management System. Guidance for using UNSW Moodle can be found on the Current Student page. Difficulties with Moodle should be logged with the IT Service Centre.

- Moodle Support: https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle-support

The IT Service Desk is your central point of contact for assistance and support with remote and on-campus study.

- UNSW IT Service Centre: https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/services/students

Course evaluation and development

At UNSW Medicine & Health, students take an active role in designing their courses and their overall student experience. We regularly seek feedback from students, and continuous improvements are made based on your input. Towards the end of the term, you will be asked to participate in the myExperience survey, which serves as a source of evaluative feedback from students. Your input to this quality enhancement process is valuable in helping us meet your learning needs and deliver an effective and enriching learning experience. Student responses are carefully considered, and the action taken to enhance educational quality is documented in the myFeedback Matters section of your Moodle (or Open Learning) course page.

School-specific Information

Laboratory or practical class safety.

For courses where there is a laboratory or practical-based component, students are required to wear the specified personal protective equipment (e.g., laboratory coat, covered shoes, safety glasses) indicated in the associated student risk assessments. The student risk assessments will be provided on the course Moodle page and must be read and acknowledged prior to the class.

Master of Science in Health Data Science courses

Courses in the Master of Science in Health Data Science are hosted through Open Learning.

Additional resources are available on the Health Data Science Student Hub.

School Contact Information

School guidelines on contacting staff:

Course questions

All questions related to course content should be posted on Moodle (or Open Learning) or as directed by your Course Convenor.

In cases where email communication with course convenors is necessary, we kindly request the following:

- Use your official email address for any correspondence with teaching staff.
- We expect a high standard of communication. All communication should avoid using short-hand or texting language.
- Include your full name, student ID, and your course code and name in all communication.

Our course convenors are expected to respond to emails during standard working hours of Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Administrative questions

If you have an administrative question about your program of study at the School please submit your enquiry online at UNSW Ask Us.

Complaints and appeals

Student complaints and appeals: https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints

If you have any grievances about your studies, we invite you to address these initially to the Course Convenor. If the response does not meet your expectations, you may then contact the School Grievance Officer, Prof Nick Di Girolamo (n.digirolamo@unsw.edu.au).

For MSc. HDS students: School Grievance Officer, Dr Sanja Lujic (s.lujic@unsw.edu.au), Centre for Big Data Research in Health