

PSYCH 260.004 2020 Fall Syllabus

Instructor

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Schedule an appointment Lab site: gilmore-lab.github.io

Teaching Assistant

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Meeting time and location

Tuesday and Thursday 10:35 AM - 11:50 AM 100 Thomas Building (August 25 - November 19) [Link to Zoom sessions](#)

About this course

There is perhaps no more fascinating scientific frontier than the study of the brain and behavior. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the principal methods, theories, and findings of the scientific fields that seek to open this frontier. At the end of the term, you will know more about the following topics:

- how the nervous system is structured and how it functions;
- how the nervous system evolved and develops; and
- how the nervous system influences behavior, thought, action, and emotion.

Required Textbook

Watson, N.V. & Breedlove, S.M. (2019). **The Mind's Machine, 3rd ed.** Sinauer Associates: Sunderland, MA.

Web links

[BrainFacts.org](https://www.brainfacts.org) from The Society for Neuroscience.

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Schedule

W&B refers to the Watson & Breedlove text. Assignments are given in chapter:pages format, e.g., 1:2-19 means read Chapter 1, pages 2-19.

Week 1, August 24 - 28 (in-person)

Tuesday, August 25

- Topics
 - Introduction to the course
 - A bit about systems
- Assignments
 - Read: W&B 1:3-21
- Materials
 - Slides

Thursday, August 27 (in-person)

- Topics
 - History of neuroscience
 - Levels of analysis
 - Neuroscience methods I
 - Assignments
 - Review: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/psychology/courses/1010/mangels/neuro/history/history.html>
 - Scan: <https://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/hist.html>
 - Read: W&B 1:3-21; 2:29, 48-51; 3:75-79.
 - Watch: Beautiful 3-D Brain Scans Show Every Synapse
 - Optional:
 - * Grillner, Kozlov, Kotaleski (2005)
 - Materials
 - Slides
-

Week 2, August 31 - September 4 (in-person)

Tuesday, September 1

- Topics
 - Neuroscience methods II.
- Assignments
 - Read: W&B 1:3-21; 2:29, 48-51; 3:75-79.
 - Watch: Magnetic Resonance Imaging Explained
 - Optional: https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Cognitive_Psychology_and_Cognitive_Neuroscience/Behavioural_and_Neuroscience_Methods
- Materials
 - Slides

Thursday, September 3 (in-person)

- Topics
 - Neuroanatomy I
 - Assignments
 - Read W&B 2:32-47
 - Materials
 - Slides
-

Week 3, September 7 - 11 (in-person)

Tuesday, September 8

- Topics
 - Neuroanatomy II
- Assignments
 - Read W&B 2:32-47
- Materials
 - Slides

Thursday, September 10 (in-person)

- Topics
 - **Quiz 1**
 - Neuroanatomy III
 - Materials
 - Slides
-

Week 4, September 14 - 18 (in-person)

Tuesday, September 15

- Topics
 - Cells of the nervous system
 - How nerve cells compute (Neurophysiology I)
- Assignments
 - Read W&B: 2:23-32
 - Read W&B: 3:55-59
- Materials
 - Slides

Thursday, September 17 (in-person)

- Topics
 - Neurophysiology II
 - Assignments
 - Read W&B: 3:55-70
 - Watch: Video about membrane potentials <https://www.youtube.com/embed/PtKAeihnbv0>
 - Materials
 - Slides
-

Week 5, September 21 - 25 (in-person)

Tuesday, September 22

- Topics
 - Neurophysiology III
 - Exam 1 Review
- Assignments
 - Read W&B 3:70-75
- Materials
 - Slides
 - Exam 1 Study Guide

Thursday, September 24

- Topics
 - **Exam 1**
-

Week 6, September 28 - October 2 (in-person)

Tuesday, September 29

- Topics
 - Neurochemistry I
- Assignments
 - Read W&B 4:83-92, 96-100
- Materials
 - Slides

Thursday, October 1

- Topics
 - Neurochemistry II
 - Assignments
 - Read W&B 4:83-92, 96-100
 - Materials
 - Slides
-

Week 7, October 5 - 9 (in-person)

Tuesday, October 6

- Topics
 - Hormones and the brain
- Assignments
 - Read W&B 8:217-234
- Materials
 - Slides

Thursday, October 8

- Topics
 - ~~Wrap-up on neurochemistry~~
 - **Blog post 1 (of 3) due.** | Assignment details |
 - **Quiz 2**
-

Week 8, October 12 - 16 (in-person)

Tuesday, October 13

- Topics
 - Evolution of the human brain.
 - Review for Exam 2
- Materials
 - Slides

Thursday, October 15 (in-person)

- Topics
 - **Exam 2.**
-

Week 9, October 19 - 23 (in-person)

Tuesday, October 20

- Topic
 - Psychopathology I: Depression & Bipolar disorder
- Assignments
 - Read W&B 12:361-371.
- Materials

Thursday, October 22

- Psychopathology II: Schizophrenia.
 - Assignments
 - Read W&B 12:347-360.
 - Materials
-

Week 10, October 26 - 30 (in-person)

Tuesday, October 27

- Topics
 - Emotion
 - Happiness & reward
 - Fear & stress
- Assignments
 - Read W&B 11:319-333, 337-344.
- Materials

Thursday, October 29

- Topics
 - **Quiz 3.**
 - Exam 2 returned.
-

Week 11, November 2 - 6 (in-person)

Tuesday, November 3

NO CLASS

Thursday, November 5

- Topics
 - Sensory systems
 - Somatosensation
 - Action
 - Assignments
 - **Blog post #2 (of 3) due.** | Assignment details |
 - Read W&B 5:119-150
 - Read W&B 11:337-347.
 - Materials
-

Week 12, November 9 - 13 (in-person)

Tuesday, November 10

- Topics
 - Action II
- Assignments
- Materials

Thursday, November 12

- Topics
 - Vision I
 - Review for Exam 3
 - Assignments
 - Read W&B 7:183-201
 - Materials
-

Week 13, November 16 - 20 (in-person)

Tuesday, November 17

- Topics
 - Exam 3.

Thursday, November 19

- Topics
 - Vision II
 - Assignments
 - Read W&B 7:201-215.
 - Materials
-

Thanksgiving Break

NO CLASS

Week 14, November 30 - December 4 (remote)

Tuesday, December 1

- Topics
 - Learning & memory
- Assignments
 - Read W&B 13:379-391.
- **Papers or blog post #3 (of 3) due.** | Blog assignment details | Paper assignment details |
- Materials

Thursday, December 3

- Topics
 - Learning & memory II
 - Assignments
 - Read W&B 13:392-401.
 - Materials
-

Week 15, December 7 - 11

Tuesday, December 8

- Topics
 - Quiz 4.
 - Exam 3 returned.

Thursday, December 10

- Topics
 - Careers in neuroscience
 - Frontiers in neuroscience
 - Review for Exam 4
-

Finals Week, December 14 - 18

Thursday, December 17 (6:50 PM - 8:40 PM)

- Exam 4

Evaluation

Elements

Component	Description	Points
Exams	There will be three (3) in-class examinations, plus a final held during the exam period that is partially cumulative. Each exam is worth 40 points. The top 3 of 4 exam scores will count toward your final grade. You may choose not to take the final.	120
Quizzes	There will be four (4) in-class quizzes. Each quiz is worth 10 points. The top 3 of 4 quiz scores will count toward your final grade.	30
Participation	There are a total of 15 points available by completing EITHER a paper or blog assignment. <i>Blog:</i> You are encouraged to create and maintain a neuroscience-related blog on PSU's blog server, http://sites.psu.edu . You may create up to 3 posts and earn 5 points/post, for a total of 15 possible points. Assignment <i>Paper:</i> You may write a 3-5 pp (double-spaced) news-style paper on a topic related to biological psychology. The paper is worth 15 points. Assignment	15
	TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	165
Extra Credit	There may be extra credit opportunities provided at random and unannounced times during the semester. Come to class in order to benefit from them.	

Grading Scheme

Points	Percent	Grade
165+	100+	A+
155-164	94-99	A
148-154	90-93	A-
143-147	87-89	B+
139-142	84-86	B
132-138	80-83	B-
127-131	77-79	C+
115-126	70-76	C
99-114	60-69	D
0-98	<59	F

Deadlines

Date	What's due/happening
Th Sep 10	Quiz 1
Th Sep 24	Exam 1
Th Oct 8	Quiz 2; Blog post 1 due
Th Oct 15	Exam 2
Th Oct 29	Quiz 3
Th Nov 5	Blog post 2 due
Tu Nov 17	Exam 3
Tu Dec 1	Short paper or Blog post 3 due
Tu Dec 8	Quiz 4
TBA	Exam 4

Policies

Academic Integrity

Penn State defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect others dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts (Faculty Senate Policy 49-20). Sanctions for academic misconduct can include a grade of F for the course as well as other penalties.

Students are responsible for maintaining academic integrity. Violations include cheating on exams, talking to others during exams, looking at another student's test materials or answers during an exam, removing exams from the classroom without consent from the instructor, plagiarizing (do not copy from someone else!), and dishonesty in any aspect of course participation.

When you complete assignments, remember the **ABCs** to avoid plagiarism: **A**lways place copied information within quotation marks, include information about the quoted or paraphrased source in a **B**ibliography, and **C**ite the source in the body (in the text) of your paper immediately after the quoted or paraphrased information. When in doubt, cite in the text and include the source in a bibliography.

Late, missed or make-up assignments

Exams Make-up exams may be permitted under unusual circumstances such as (a) an interview for graduate school or a job, (b) illness, (c) religious observance, (d) the death of a family member, or (e) any other event recognized by the university as a valid excuse for absence from class.

If you must miss class on the day an exam is scheduled, you must do the following:

1. Contact the TA or the instructor by telephone, email, or in person in advance of the exam. Twenty-four hours notice is expected. If you do not contact the TA or instructor in advance, it is possible that you may not be able to schedule a make-up exam.
2. Arrange with the TA or instructor to take a make-up exam as soon as possible, but no later than one (1) week following the date of the scheduled exam. It is your responsibility, not the TA's or the instructor's to schedule an approved make-up exam in a timely way.

Quizzes No make-up quizzes will be given except under unusual circumstances. You may ask for a copy of the quiz for studying purposes, however.

Accommodation for persons with disabilities Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. Please refer to the information provided by Student Disability Resources (SDR) at <http://equity.psu.edu/student-disability-resources/> for information about the procedures required to obtain reasonable accommodations in this course. Students should discuss SDR-approved accommodations with their instructor as early in the semester as possible, even if they have taken another course with the instructor. Please note: students are not required to provide their instructor with information about the nature of their condition.

Penn State students are also welcome to contact other units for assistance with personal concerns that interfere with academic progress, including: Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS; <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/>), the Office of Student Affairs (<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/>), Career Services (<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/>), the Center for Women Students (<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/womenscenter/>), the LGBTQA Student Resource Center (<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/lgbtqa/>), the Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response (<http://titleix.psu.edu/>), Penn State Educational Equity (<http://equity.psu.edu/>), the Multicultural Resource Center (<http://equity.psu.edu/mrc/>), and University Health Services (<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/health/>).

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information or political ideas.

Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated.

Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to:

Dr. Kenneth Lehrman III Vice Provost for Affirmative Action Affirmative Action Office The Pennsylvania State University 328 Boucke Building University Park, PA 16802-5901 Email: kfl2@psu.edu Tel (814) 863-0471

Diversity Statement

This classroom is a place where you will be treated with respect. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment for every other member of the class.

Penn State is committed to creating an educational environment which is free from intolerance directed toward individuals or groups and strives to create and maintain an environment that fosters respect for others as stated in Policy AD29 Statement on Intolerance.

Mandated Reporting Statement

Penn State's policies require me, as a faculty member, to share information about incidents of sex-based discrimination and harassment (discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation) with Penn State's Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators, regardless of whether the incidents are stated to me in person or shared by students as part of their coursework. For more information regarding the University's policies and procedures for responding to reports of sexual or gender-based harassment or misconduct, please visit <http://titleix.psu.edu>.

Additionally, I am required to make a report on any reasonable suspicion of child abuse in accordance with the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law.

COVID safety information

Students experiencing any illness and especially COVID-19 related symptoms should not attend class in person. Those students are strongly encouraged to contact a health care provider and their instructor as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodations.

Students should remain at least six feet away from others in our classroom. Policies require all of us to wear masks appropriately to cover our mouths and noses while we are in our classroom. Students who do not want to distance themselves appropriately or wear a mask during class may not attend class in person. Attending this class without wearing a mask properly constitutes a classroom disruption, a violation of several articles of the student Code of Conduct (<https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/support-safety-conduct/student-conduct/code-conduct>), and a violation of policy AD 57 (<https://policy.psu.edu/policies/ad57>). Anyone in the classroom who is not wearing a mask appropriately will be asked to do so or to leave. I am required to end class if anyone refuses this request. Failure to comply may result in a conduct violation. Students who believe they should be granted a health or safety exception to this policy should consult with Student Disability Resources about reasonable accommodations and present their accommodation letter to me if an exception is granted.

Zoom

I will be using Zoom and recording lectures to allow students who are unable to attend class in person to participate.

While you are on Zoom, keep in mind that this is a classroom environment and others should be treated with respect. Please keep your microphone muted unless you want to ask a question or interact with someone. If your microphone is not muted, the entire class will be able to hear what is going on in your environment. Also, as an instructor, I personally like to see people's faces. Also, as a participant, I am more involved when I have my camera on. I realize, however, that there are many reasons why you might not want to turn on your camera such as poor internet connection, joining via phone, or other privacy concerns. It is your choice as to whether you would like to have the camera on or not.

Note that video and audio recordings of class lectures will be part of the classroom activity. The video and audio recording is used for educational use/purposes and only may be made available to all students presently enrolled in the class. For purposes where the recordings will be used in future class session/lectures, any type of identifying information will be adequately removed.

Values

Penn State Principles

The Pennsylvania State University is a community dedicated to personal and academic excellence. The Penn State Principles were developed to embody the values that we hope our students, faculty, staff, administration, and alumni possess. At the same time, the University is strongly committed to freedom of expression. Consequently, these Principles do not constitute University policy and are not intended to interfere in any way with an individual's academic or personal freedoms. We hope, however, that individuals will voluntarily endorse these common principles, thereby contributing to the traditions and scholarly heritage left by those who preceded them, and will thus leave Penn State a better place for those who follow.

I will respect the dignity of all individuals within the Penn State community. The University is committed to creating and maintaining an educational environment that respects the right of all individuals to participate fully in the community. Actions motivated by hate, prejudice, or intolerance violate this principle. I will not engage in any behaviors that compromise or demean the dignity of individuals or groups, including intimidation, stalking, harassment, discrimination, taunting, ridiculing, insulting, or acts of violence. I will demonstrate respect for others by striving to learn from differences between people, ideas, and opinions and by avoiding behaviors that inhibit the ability of other community members to feel safe or welcome as they pursue their academic goals.

I will practice academic integrity. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at Penn State University, allowing the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. In accordance with the University Code of Conduct, I will practice integrity in regard to all academic assignments. I will not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception because such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.

I will demonstrate social and personal responsibility. The University is a community that promotes learning; any behaviors that are inconsistent with that goal are unacceptable. Irresponsible behaviors, including alcohol or drug abuse and the use of violence against people or property, undermine the educational climate by threatening the physical and mental health of members of the community. I will exercise personal responsibility for my actions and I will make sure that my actions do not interfere with the academic and social environment of the University. I will maintain a high standard of behavior by adhering to the Code of Conduct and respecting the rights of others.

I will be responsible for my own academic progress and agree to comply with all University policies. The University allows students to identify and achieve their academic goals by providing the information needed to plan the chosen program of study and the necessary educational opportunities, but students assume final responsibility for course scheduling, program planning, and the successful completion of graduation requirements. I will be responsible for seeking the academic and career information needed to meet my educational goals by becoming knowledgeable about the relevant policies, procedures, and rules of the University and academic program, by consulting and meeting with my adviser, and by successfully completing all of the requirements for graduation.

Penn State Values

Integrity: We act with integrity and honesty in accordance with the highest academic, professional, and ethical standards.

Respect: We respect and honor the dignity of each person, embrace civil discourse, and foster a diverse and inclusive community.

Responsibility: We act responsibly, and we are accountable for our decisions, actions, and their consequences.

Discovery: We seek and create new knowledge and understanding, and foster creativity and innovation, for the benefit of our communities, society, and the environment.

Excellence: We strive for excellence in all our endeavors as individuals, an institution, and a leader in higher education.

Community: We work together for the betterment of our University, the communities we serve, and the world.