Topics in Neuroscience Seminar
PSYC409 – Fall 2016
Biology-Psychology Building, Room 1232
2-3:50PM, every Monday
https://myelms.umd.edu/courses/1202371

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I. Course Description
Topics in Neuroscience Seminar is an undergraduate seminar designed to expose Neuroscience Minors to a broad range of original research currently being performed at the University of Maryland, College Park.

II. Goals and Learning Outcomes
The overall goal of this course is to expose students to the active neuroscience community via attendance of research seminars given by senior graduate students and postdoctoral scientists. This course will focus on reading and comprehending scientific articles that provide background for the research seminar. Expected learning outcomes are:
• Gain knowledge about theory and research in neuroscience
• Development of critical reading skills
• Increase ability to synthesize relevant information

III. Readings
All background readings are required.

IV. Overall Structure of the Course
The typical class session will consist of:
• Day 1: A discussion, led by the graduate student or postdoctoral scientist, which will cover the main topics, theories, and ideas necessary to understand the research seminar
• Day 2: A 45-50 minute research seminar (i.e., PowerPoint or similar presentation program), that is open to the public, followed by 10-15 minutes of questions from the audience
V. Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29-Aug-16</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-Sep-16</td>
<td>No Class: Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-Sep-16</td>
<td>Discussion #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-Sep-16</td>
<td>Research Seminar #1:</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-Sep-16</td>
<td>Discussion #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Oct-16</td>
<td>Research Seminar #2:</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-Oct-16</td>
<td>Discussion #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-Oct-16</td>
<td>Research Seminar #3:</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-Oct-16</td>
<td>Discussion #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-Oct-16</td>
<td>Research Seminar #4:</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-Nov-16</td>
<td>Discussion #5</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-Nov-16</td>
<td>No Class: Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-Nov-16</td>
<td>Research Seminar #5:</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-Nov-16</td>
<td>Discussion #6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-Dec-16</td>
<td>Research Seminar #6:</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-Dec-16</td>
<td>Course Wrap-Up</td>
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VI. Course Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the quality and depth of six discussion questions submitted prior to the research seminar and on the thoroughness of two written presentation summaries. Grading will be as follows:

- **Discussion Questions (50% of total grade):** each discussion question is worth 8.33%
  - Submissions are due the Friday before the Monday research seminar (no later than 5p). No late discussion questions will be accepted.
  - During the question and answer portion of the research seminar, your question may be picked asked at random

- **Summaries of Research Presentations (50% of total grade):** each written summary is worth 25%
  - Students will pick two of the six research seminars and write a 1-2 page research summary
    - See [http://digitalwriting101.net/content/how-to-format-papers-in-standard-academic-format-using-microsoft-word/](http://digitalwriting101.net/content/how-to-format-papers-in-standard-academic-format-using-microsoft-word/) for formatting requirements
  - Each summary should include: 1) broad objectives of the research, 2) hypotheses tested, 3) methods employed, and 4) results reported and the interpretation of these data. Additionally, a brief commentary on the presentation (clarity, organization, logic, and other observations) should be included in the written summary.
Summaries should be uploaded no later than the Friday following the Monday seminar (by 5pm). No late summaries will be accepted. If you miss this deadline, you will need to write a new summary.

Discussion questions and presentation summaries will be assessed using grading rubrics that can be found on the ELMS course site. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the grading rubrics before the assignments are due.

VII. Campus Policies
It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic Integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit [http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html](http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html) for the office of undergraduate studies’ full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have any questions.

VIII. Course Evaluation
Your participation in the evaluation of courses through CourseEvalUM is a responsibility you hold as a student member of our academic community. Your feedback is confidential and important to the improvement of teaching and learning at the University as well as to the tenure and promotion process. CourseEvalUM will be open for you to complete your evaluations for fall semester courses in early December 2016 (specific dates to be announced). You can go directly to the website ([www.courseevalum.umd.edu](http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu)) to complete your evaluations. By completing all of your evaluations each semester, you will have the privilege of accessing the summary reports for thousands of courses online at Testudo.