NEUROSCIENCE AND BEHAVIOR

Neuroscience is a discipline that probes one of the last biological frontiers in understanding ourselves. It asks fundamental questions about how the brain and nervous system work in the expression of behavior. As such, the field takes on a clear interdisciplinary character: All scientific levels of organization (behavioral, developmental, molecular, cellular, and systems) contribute to our understanding of the nervous system. Neuroscience has been a field of particularly active growth and progress for the past two decades, and it is certain to be an area where important and exciting developments will continue to occur. At Wesleyan, the neurosciences are represented by the teaching and research activities of faculty members in the departments of biology and psychology. The neuroscience and behavior (NS&B) curriculum is both comprehensive and provides diverse approaches to learning. Through lecture/seminars, lab-based methods courses, and hands-on research experience, students are afforded a rich educational experience. Unique among schools of comparative size, Wesleyan has small but active graduate programs leading to BA/MA and PhD degrees. This attribute, together with the high success rate of faculty in obtaining research grant support, further enhances the education of undergraduates by providing additional mentoring, more research opportunities, and access to state-of-the-art laboratories. The mission of the NS&B program is to provide the foundation for a variety of career options in science, medicine, and private industry. For more information, see wesleyan.edu/nsb/ (http://wesleyan.edu/nsb).

FACULTY

Gloster B. Aaron
BA, Oberlin College; PHD, University of Pennsylvania
Associate Professor of Biology; Chair, Neuroscience and Behavior; Associate Professor, Neuroscience and Behavior; Associate Professor, Integrative Sciences

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Janice R. Naegele

DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERT

Gloster Aaron

VISITING FACULTY

Nihal C. de Lanerolle
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Visiting Professor of Neuroscience and Behavior

NS&B149 Neuroethology: Sensory Basis of Animal Orientation and Navigation
This course is about the sensory and neuronal processes underlying the ability of animals to orient in and move through their environments. We will consider the basic functions of sensory and nervous systems that underlie the remarkable abilities of animals to orient themselves in personal space, move through their home range, and move through the world in long-distance migrations and in homing. Animals from invertebrates through fish, birds, and mammals will be considered. The format of the course will be seminar/discussion and some lectures with heavy student participation. The course is intended for first-year students with high school-level courses in at least two of the following: biology, chemistry, or physics.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-NSB
Identical With: BIOL149
Prereq: None

NS&B210 Research Methods in Cognition
This course will examine the experimental method as a means of gaining knowledge about human cognition. Students in this course will learn about general research methods in cognitive psychology related to experimental design, understanding and interpreting research, and ethical issues involved in research with human subjects. Classic research paradigms in cognitive
psychology will be explored through the use of interactive demonstrations and in-class experiments.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC210
Prereq: PSYC105

NS&B213 Behavioral Neurobiology

This course will introduce the concepts and contemporary research in the field of neuroscience and behavior. The course is intended for prospective neuroscience and behavior majors (for whom it is required) and for biology and psychology majors who wish a broad introduction to neuroscience. The initial few weeks will be devoted to fundamental concepts of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology. Subsequent classes will deal in-depth with fundamental problems of nervous system function and the neural basis of behavior, including neurotransmitter systems; organization of the visual system and visual perception; the control of movement; neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders; the neuroendocrine system; control of autonomic behaviors such as feeding, sleep, and temperature regulation; the stress response; and language, learning, and memory. Experimental results from a variety of species, including humans, will be considered.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-NSB
Identical With: PSYC240, BIOL213
Prereq: None

NS&B215 Research Methods: Behavioral Methods in Animal Research

This is a research methods course that provides an understanding of the different approaches to animal research, particularly those using rodent models. It provides students with an understanding of the different techniques employed by researchers and the questions they address. This course provides students with hands-on experience with animal research using rodent models. Students will learn how to handle and inject rats and will also get a sense of how to design a behavioral experiment, including the use of control groups and counterbalancing. The course will follow a lecture/discussion/lab format where students will learn about different forms of conditioning (operant/classical) and how these apply to various behavioral tasks such as operant responding, autoshaping, decision-making, locomotion testing, etc. (see readings for more examples). One class each week will take place in the lab to provide students with hands-on experience with rats and the testing apparatuses. Students will be assigned a rat for the semester that they will use to collect and analyze data during lab classes. This will be combined with regular class discussion of research articles dealing with each topic, including some of the earlier reports and more recent applications. The focus of the course will be on trying to prepare students to design and carry out behavioral/animal research in a laboratory setting.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC215
Prereq: PSYC105 OR [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B220 Cognitive Psychology

Cognitive psychology, a major branch in the field of psychology, is the scientific study of human adult mental processes. The goal of this course is to provide a broad introduction to the issues, methods, and phenomena that characterize the field. These will be brought to life with selected examples of influential empirical studies and, occasionally, practical applications. In seeking constraints on theories of how the mind works, we will draw primarily on studies of adult human behavior (e.g., reaction time, task accuracy), individuals with localized brain damage (e.g., visual agnosia), and measures of brain activity (e.g., as inferred using fMRI techniques). Computer models and nonhuman animal studies will also be considered. Broad topics will include attention, perception, memory, knowledge, reasoning, and decision making. The course is lecture-based but will incorporate discussions, demonstrations, video, and group activities.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC220
Prereq: PSYC105

NS&B221 Human Memory

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth overview of the different human memory systems revealed by empirical research in the fields of cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience. The different systems include procedural memory, working memory, perceptual memory, semantic memory, and episodic memory.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC221
Prereq: PSYC105 OR [PSYC220 or NS&B220] OR [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240] OR [PSYC222 or NS&B222]

NS&B222 Sensation and Perception

This course explores our perceptual systems and how they create and shape our experience of the world around us. We will consider the neurophysiology of perceptual systems as well as psychological approaches to the study of perception, covering all of the human senses with a special emphasis on vision. Class demonstrations will introduce students to interesting perceptual phenomena.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC222
Prereq: PSYC105 OR [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B224 Hormones, Brain, and Behavior

Hormones coordinate the anatomical, physiological, and behavioral changes necessary for developmental, seasonal, and diurnal transition in animals. These molecules have profound effects on the development of the brain and on adult brain function. How do hormones orchestrate brain assembly and the expression of specific behaviors? How do behavior, social context, and the environment influence hormone secretion? This course will provide a critical survey of our understanding of the relationship between endocrinology, the brain, and behavior in a variety of animal systems. Select topics include insect metamorphosis; sexual differentiation of the vertebrate brain and behavior; reproductive and aggressive behavior in birds, lizards, and rodents; song learning and song production in birds; and the effects of hormones on sexual behavior and cognitive function in primates, including humans. The exploration of a variety of systems will provide students with an appreciation of the ways in which the relationships between hormones and behavior vary across species, as well as the extent to which these relationships are conserved.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL224
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240] OR [BIOL182 or MB&B182]
NS&B225 Cognitive Neuroscience
This course provides an introduction to cognitive neuroscience—the study of how the brain enables the mind. We will begin with an overview of the neural substrates of cognition and the tools for understanding the structure and function of the human brain. Then we will cover neural processes that support sensory perception and attention, memory, motor control, language, executive control, and emotional and social functioning. We will also discuss mechanisms of brain evolution, development, and repair, and their implications for various diseases and disorders.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-NSB
Identical With: PSYC225
Prereq: PSYC105 OR [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B227 Motivation and Reward
This course will focus on motivation and reward, providing students with a background in and understanding of the various theories and approaches to studying the topic of motivation, including an introduction to some of the history and the current advances in the field. The course uses animal and human research to try to unravel the brain areas and neurotransmitter systems involved in different forms of reward, including food, sex, and drugs, and examine cases of disordered motivation such as drug addiction, obesity, and disordered gambling.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-NSB
Identical With: PSYC227
Prereq: PSYC105 OR [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B228 Clinical Neuropsychology
This introductory course will examine the relationship between brain functioning and cognition, behavior, and emotion through the study of human brain disorders. The course will begin with a brief overview of basic human regional neuroanatomy, followed by an exploration of neuropsychological assessment and intervention (its history, rationale, goals, and procedures). These topics will provide a foundation for the discussion of more specific topics in neuropsychology (e.g., traumatic brain injury, dementia, psychiatric disorders, cerebrovascular disorders, seizure disorders, learning disabilities, autism) and the role that neuropsychologists play in the evaluation and treatment of individuals with these disorders.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC228
Prereq: PSYC105 OR [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B239 Functional Anatomy of the Human Brain
A mass of tissue the consistency of firm jello and weighing about 2.5 pounds in the adult human, the brain is an organ that controls nearly every function of the body. It also enables the highest cognitive functions of humans such as learning and memory, thinking, consciousness, and aesthetic appreciation. Its malfunction results in a variety of diseases, including senility, mood disorders, and motor dysfunctions. This course will examine in some detail the complex organization of the brain and how it performs some of its basic functions. The course will be of special interest to premed students; NS&B, biology, and psychology majors; and anyone simply interested in how the brain works.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL239, PSYC239

Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B243 Neurohistology
The aim of this course is to study the microscopic structure of the nervous system. Structural and functional relationships between neurons and glia, as well as the organization of major brain regions (cortex, hippocampus, and cerebellum) will be examined. In addition to traditional histological preparations, modern techniques including confocal microscopy and immunohistochemistry will be studied and performed. Laboratory exercises will include the preparation and visualization of microscopic slides using a variety of techniques. While this course will focus on mammalian nervous system, skills learned in this course will be applicable in a variety of research models.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-NSB
Identical With: BIOL243
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240] OR [MB&B181 or BIOL181]

NS&B245 Cellular Neurophysiology
This course will deal with basic aspects of neuronal physiology, including the function of excitable membranes and the transfer of information between cells (e.g., synaptic physiology, neurochemistry, membrane receptors). In connection with each of these topics, consideration will be given to short- and long-term modification of neuronal function. Toward the end of the course, we will examine the neurophysiology of epileptic seizures as well as the neurophysiology of motor systems.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL245
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B247 Laboratory in Neurophysiology
The course is designed to teach techniques and offer independent research experience. Students study living nervous systems and measure the electrical signals at the heart of nervous system function. In the first part, experiments include intracellular recordings of rest and action potentials, synaptic transmission, sensory coding and integration in simple nervous systems. Students learn surgical and electrophysiological recording techniques working with invertebrate and cold-blooded vertebrate animals including crayfish, mollusks (Aplysia), leeches, fish, and amphibians. In the second part of the course, students will use these techniques in novel, independent research projects.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL247
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240] AND [BIOL182 or MB&B182]

NS&B249 Neuroethology
Basic and integrative processes of nervous systems are considered with attention to their roles in species-typical behaviors. After a brief initial consideration of cellular properties of individual nerve cells, synaptic interactions and neuroanatomy form the basis for studying systems of neurons and their behavioral significance during the remainder of the semester. The focus is on the neuronal basis of naturalistic behaviors in animals from mollusks and insects through fish, birds, and mammals. Topics include sensory transduction; central processing of sensory information; production and control of patterned behaviors and movements; neural basis of orienting, navigation, and homing; and sensory-motor integration.
Offering: Crosslisting
behavior.

Students will learn to analyze experimental data and write a series of laboratory reports on the experiments done during class. In addition, students will write a term paper related to one of the experimental approaches.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NISM-BIOL
Identical With: NISM-NSM
Prereq: [BIOL213 or BIOL221 or PSYC240]

NS&B250 Comparative Animal Behavior
This course explores the scientific study of animal behavior. All animals face similar challenges and we will examine the common, and sometimes unique, behavioral strategies used to meet these challenges. There are two sorts of questions one might ask about the behavior of a given individual or species. First, how is that behavior executed? Second, why is that behavior, rather than another, exhibited? What is the adaptive significance of the behavior? To fully understand the behavior of any organism, both sorts of questions must be addressed. This course will introduce students to the many ways these questions are grappled with for a wide range of organisms. As such, this course will provide an overview of mechanistic, ecological, and evolutionary explanations of behavior.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NISM-NSM
Prereq: [CHEM251 AND CHEM252 AND [MB&B208 or BIOL208]]

NS&B252 Cell Biology of the Neuron
Neuronal cell biology is an important and fast-moving field. The brain cannot be understood without first elucidating the properties and functions of its component neurons. This course will focus on cell biological studies of the nervous system. We will explore the structure and function of neurons, synapses, and circuits. Using both text books and primary literature, we will examine the basic cell biological mechanisms that underlie the formation, function, and plasticity of neurons and circuits. Areas studied will include polarity, synapse formation, synaptic transmission, intracellular transport, plasticity, and regeneration.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NISM-NSM
Prereq: NISM-B555, BIOL250

NS&B254 Comparative Animal Behavior
This course explores the scientific study of animal behavior. All animals face similar challenges and we will examine the common, and sometimes unique, behavioral strategies used to meet these challenges. There are two sorts of questions one might ask about the behavior of a given individual or species. First, how is that behavior executed? Second, why is that behavior, rather than another, exhibited? What is the adaptive significance of the behavior? To fully understand the behavior of any organism, both sorts of questions must be addressed. This course will introduce students to the many ways these questions are grappled with for a wide range of organisms. As such, this course will provide an overview of mechanistic, ecological, and evolutionary explanations of behavior.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NISM-NSM
Prereq: [CHEM251 AND CHEM252 AND [MB&B208 or BIOL208]]

NS&B280 Data Analysis
In this project-based course, you will have the opportunity to answer questions that you feel passionately about through independent research based on existing data. You will develop skills in generating testable hypotheses, conducting a literature review, preparing data for analysis, conducting descriptive and inferential statistical analyses, and presenting research findings. The course offers one-on-one support, ample opportunities to work with other students, and training in the skills required to complete a project of your own design. These skills will prepare you to work in many different research labs across the University that collect empirical data. It is also an opportunity to fulfill an important requirement in several different majors.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NISM-QAC
Identical With: PSYC280, SOC257, QAC201, GOVT201
Prereq: None

NS&B289 Waves, Brains, and Music
Pressure waves bounce against the ear, and we create perceptions called sounds from them. We organize sounds to make music, making more waves, and the cycle goes forward. This course will provide an introduction to the fraction of these phenomena that can be measured and analyzed, focusing on the mathematics of signal analysis, auditory physiology, and the physiology of musical perception and production. Periodic waveforms include musical tones and the voltage fluctuations that can be measured from brains. The first third of this course (waves) is an introduction to the quantitative analysis of periodic waveforms, with the goal that the student will have a better understanding of how to interpret the analysis of both musical sounds and neuronal recordings. The second part of the course (brains) examines the known mechanical processes (physiology) by which the mammalian brain analyzes the periodic waveforms that we interpret as sound. The third part of the course uses these lessons to examine original research articles about the neuroscience of music, that is, how neuronal networks produce musical perception.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NISM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL299
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B303 Receptors, Channels, and Pumps: Advanced Topics in Membrane Structure and Function
Membrane proteins constitute one-third of all cellular proteins and one-half of current drug targets, but our understanding of their structure and function has been limited in the past by technological obstacles. In spite of this, the past 10 years have yielded a wealth of new membrane protein structures that have helped to uncover the mechanistic underpinnings of many important cellular processes. This class will examine some of the new insights gained through the various techniques of modern structural biology. We will start with a general review of membrane properties, structural techniques (e.g., x-ray crystallography, EM, NMR), and protein structure analysis. We will then look at common structural motifs and functional concepts illustrated by different classes of membrane proteins. Students will read primary literature sources and learn how to gauge the quality and limitations of published membrane protein structures. These tools will be generally applicable to evaluating soluble protein structures as well.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NISM-MBB
Identical With: MB&B303, MB&B523
Prereq: [CHEM251 AND CHEM252 AND [MB&B208 or BIOL208]]

NS&B308 Psychology of Action
This course will introduce students to the study of the coordination and control of action. Topics will include control of movement, motor planning, and the linkage between perception, action, and cognition.
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240] OR [MB&B181 or BIOL181 and CHEM252]

Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL325
Prereq: [(MB&B181 or BIOL181) AND (BIOL182 or MB&B182)]

NS&B325 Stem Cells: Basic Biology to Clinical Application
This course will cover recent advances in stem cell biology, including tissue-specific and pluripotent stem cells. Clinical applications will be covered and we will examine the ethics and politics as well as the science of this emerging field.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Identical With: CHEM323
Prereq: BIO181 AND CHEM252

NS&B328 Chemical Senses
The least well understood of the senses, chemical sensation, is key to survival and behavior of many species. This course covers the structure and function of sensory neurons in both the gustatory and olfactory systems, as well as chemosensory irritation. We will examine coding of sensory information to understand how higher cortical areas interpret stimuli. We will look at a variety of animal models and discover common organizing principles across phyla. Emphasis will be placed on the cell biology of these systems. Students will participate in reading, analyzing, and presenting recent studies from different areas within chemical sense to highlight recent findings and where the emphasis in chemosensory research is focused.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-NSB
Identical With: BIOL328
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B329 Neural Costs of War
This course focuses on stress reactions that result because of exposure to war, combat, and related atrocities. You will learn about the diagnosis of PTSD, including its development and history. There is a strong emphasis on the neural and cognitive mechanisms for stress-related psychopathology and the overlap of psychological and neural systems with the damaging effects of traumatic brain injury. While interactions of these mechanisms with social and cultural processes are considered, the primary emphasis is on the neural and cognitive mechanisms. To be fully prepared for this course, students should have a solid grounding in neuroscience and behavior, as well as basic psychopathology.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC329

NS&B323 Biochemistry of Neurodegenerative Disease
Broadly defined, neurodegenerative disease occurs when a specific class of neuron dies and thus fails in its biological action. In this course, we will delve into the many different, intricate ways neuron death can occur and cause disease. From the chemistry of neurotransmitters, aggregation of proteins, and the collapse of neuromuscular junctions, many areas of the neurobiology can go awry.

The focus of the course will be on understanding the complex interplay of small molecules and proteins that keep neurons healthy and functional. In this course, we will use current primary literature and lecture to understand the varied topics. This course aims to improve skills in reading and analysis of primary literature as well as the written and oral presentation of scientific findings.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Identical With: CHEM323
Prereq: BIO181 AND CHEM252
in this journey, we will ask what the roles of genes and the environment are in forming the nervous system. We will also discuss developmental disorders resulting from developmental processes that have gone astray. This is a reading-intensive seminar course emphasizing classroom discussions, with readings from a textbook and the primary scientific literature.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL345, NS&B545, BIOL545

NS&B347 Mammalian Cortical Circuits
While scientists are still very unsure of how the mammalian cortex enables conscious perception and thought, there has been a tremendous explosion of knowledge recently concerning the wide heterogeneity of neuronal classes and the specific kinds of connections between these classes. Detailed wiring diagrams of local cortical circuits are emerging, colored with dynamic connections that have created a wellspring of ideas motivated toward understanding the cortex with reverse-engineering strategies. This course will focus on cortical circuit studies in the neocortex. Students will come to know, for example, many different varieties of inhibitory interneurons in terms of their firing properties, synaptic plasticities, the connections they make with other neurons, and what roles they might play in governing cortical dynamics.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL347
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B348 Origins of Knowledge
In this course we will discuss in depth a selection of current topics in cognitive development, centering on questions concerning the origins of knowledge. (What kinds of knowledge do we possess even very early in life? How does that knowledge change over time?) We will examine these questions within specific subject areas such as object perception, space perception, number understanding, and understanding of other minds, surveying evidence from different stages of human individual development as well as evidence from nonhuman species.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC348
Prereq: None

NS&B351 Neurobiology of Learning and Memory
Animals as varied as sea slugs and humans display a number of types of learning, ranging from the capacity to acquire species-specific behavior to the ability to form arbitrary associations. Just as varied are the philosophies governing the choice of how to best study the neurobiology of learning and memory. Through lectures, class discussion, student presentations, and a critical reading of the primary literature, the advantages and disadvantages of these various approaches will be investigated. While the specific focus of this class will be on learning and memory, other ways in which the brain learns will also be explored. Normal brain ontogeny relies to some extent on invariant cues in the animal’s environment, making this process somewhat analogous to learning. In fact, the neural substrates for learning are likely to be a subset of the basic steps used during brain development. Moreover, the developmental rules guiding brain assembly place constraints on the what, how, and when of brain
function and learning. Therefore, this course will also cover select topics in basic
developmental neurobiology.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL351
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B353 Neurobiology of Neurological Disorders
This course aims to provide a foundation in the underlying mechanisms of
neurological and psychiatric disorders. We will explore through lectures and
readings of primary literature a number of important neurological and
psychiatric diseases, including autism, schizophrenia, Alzheimer’s disease,
mental retardation, epilepsy, and Parkinson’s disease. This course focuses on
the fundamental molecular and cellular mechanisms that underlie neurological
disorders and is designed to engage students who wish to study basic aspects of
brain function.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-NSB
Identical With: BIOL353, PSYC353
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B356 Neurodevelopmental Disorders
This course aims to provide a foundation in the underlying mechanisms of
neurodevelopmental disorders. We will explore through lectures and reading of
primary literature a number of important neurological and psychiatric diseases,
including genetic disorders such as Down syndrome, Fragile X, and Williams
syndrome; spectrum disorders such as autism and fetal alcohol syndrome; ADHD,
Tourette’s, cerebral palsy, and some motor disorders including developmental
coordination disorder, stereotypic movement disorder, sensory inattention
disorder, and neonatal hypoxia. This course focuses on the fundamental
molecular and cellular mechanisms that underlie neurological disorders and is
designed to engage students who wish to study basic cellular aspects of brain
function.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-NSB
Identical With: BIOL356, PSYC356
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B360 Neuroplasticity: How Experience Changes the Brain
Neuroplasticity refers to the brain’s ability to change throughout his life. In this
course, we will examine functional and structural plasticity of the brain.
Functional plasticity refers to the brain’s ability to move functions from a
damaged area of the brain to other undamaged areas. Structural plasticity
refers to the brain’s ability to change its physical structure, as a result of learning
or to reorganize itself by forming new connections, strengthening existing
connections, or pruning away old synaptic connections. We will examine critical
periods in development when sensory experiences change and sculpt the wiring
of the brain, how exercise and diet influence adult neurogenesis and cognition,
and how neural activity regulates structural plasticity and gene programs. This is
a writing-intensive course. Students will analyze the readings through discussions
and writing assignments including blogs, short reviews, and commentaries.
Students will have opportunities for extensive feedback on their writing and
revisions.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-NSB
Identical With: BIOL360

Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B383 Advanced Research in Learning and Memory
This advanced research course is designed to allow students to conduct
supervised research in the area of human learning and memory. Students will
become familiar with both classic and contemporary studies in memory and
undertake a semester-long experimental research project that seeks to answer a
current question in the field of memory research either individually or as a group.
Students will get to work on all aspects of the research project, including reviews
of the background literature; generation of research ideas; the design, conduct,
and analysis of a study; and a write-up of research findings in a journal-article
format.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC383
Prereq: None

NS&B390 Experimental Investigations into Reading
Experienced readers can easily recognize thousands of words. The mental
dictionaries of these readers are efficiently organized to allow rapid and
seemingly effortless word recognition. There are still many unanswered
questions about the processes involved in visual word recognition. In this
class, students will work together with the instructor to design and carry out
an experimental investigation relating to reading and word recognition. The
semester will provide students with a chance to integrate all aspects of the
experimental process: idea formation, experimental design, data collection and
analysis, interpretation, write-up, and presentation.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC390
Prereq: None

NS&B392 Behavioral Methods in Affective Neuroscience
This research methods course teaches experimental design and methods in
experimental psychopathology using tools to conduct behavioral research in
cognitive-affective neuroscience. Course material includes studies from the
contemporary psychopathology research literature, with a focus on emotion
interactions. Methods taught will vary by semester and individual research
projects and will include statistical procedures (e.g., repeated measures ANOVA),
tools for conducting research and analyzing data (e.g., computer programming
for stimuli presentation and data processing), and neuroimaging techniques (e.g.,
event-related potential). There is high expectation that those enrolled in this
course will take initiative to extend their learning to areas for which they have
specific interests related to the course objectives. Students are also expected to
work independently.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC392
Prereq: None

NS&B398 Advanced Research in Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience
This course provides in-depth training on the methods of auditory cognitive
neuroscience. We will review contemporary studies in auditory cognitive
neuroscience, specifically in speech, language, and music. Students will design
and implement a group project, learn to analyze the data, and write up the
results in an end-of-term paper.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
### NS&B399 Lab in Gambling, Drugs, and Junk Food
This intensive laboratory course provides in-depth training on the experimental methods of behavioral neuroscience of motivation and reward and provides students with HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH ANIMAL RESEARCH USING RODENT MODELS. The capstone of the course is to give students the opportunity to carry out an independent group ANIMAL RESEARCH PROJECT in the lab, which may require a heavier time commitment for the duration of the experiment (including some research over the weekends). Students will LEARN HOW TO HANDLE RATS in a behavioral neuroscience research setting and how to measure reward and motivation using diverse apparatuses such as operant (Skinner) boxes or conditioned place preference chambers; students will also develop their writing and presentation skills. In addition, we will review contemporary studies with a particular focus on gambling, diet-induced obesity, and drug addiction. Some of the models examined in more detail will focus on the role of reward uncertainty and decision-making in gambling, the individual differences in the attraction to reward cues in subjects prone to obesity vs. those who are resistant (with a particular emphasis on prenatal and developmental exposure to high-fat diets), and, finally, the individual differences in the resistance to adverse consequences in models of intense desire and addiction.

**Offering:** Crosslisting  
**Grading:** OPT  
**Credits:** 1.00

### NS&B400 Professional Development and Graduate School Preparation Seminar
The objectives of this course are (1) to build a supportive cohort that will help students sustain their goals when they enter graduate school and (2) to provide students with skills they will need to succeed in graduate school. Students will work on writing, presentation, and discussion skills. This will be done by reading classic books on writing, critiquing the ability of different figures and graphs to convey information, reading and discussing scientific papers, and giving research presentations.

**Offering:** Crosslisting  
**Grading:** A-F  
**Credits:** 0.50

### NS&B401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

### NS&B402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

### NS&B407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** A-F

### NS&B408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** A-F

NS&B409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

NS&B410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

NS&B411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

NS&B412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

NS&B420 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** Cr/U

NS&B421 Undergraduate Research, Science
Individual research projects for undergraduate students supervised by faculty members.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

NS&B422 Undergraduate Research, Science
Individual research projects for undergraduate students supervised by faculty members.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

NS&B423 Advanced Research Seminar, Undergraduate
Advanced research tutorial; project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

NS&B424 Advanced Research Seminar, Undergraduate
Advanced research tutorial; project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

NS&B466 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

NS&B491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT

NS&B492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.

**Offering:** Host  
**Grading:** OPT
NS&B501 Individual Tutorial, Graduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

NS&B502 Individual Tutorial, Graduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

NS&B503 Selected Topics, Graduate Sciences
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. A seminar primarily concerned with papers taken from current research publications designed for, and required of, graduate students.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

NS&B509 Neuroscience Journal Club I
Presentation and discussion of current research articles in the field of neuroscience.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: None
Identical With: BIOL509
Prereq: None

NS&B510 Neurosciences Journal Club II
Presentation and discussion of current research articles in the field of neuroscience.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: None
Identical With: BIOL510
Prereq: None

NS&B543 Muscle and Nerve Development
This course will examine the structure and function of muscle cells, the development of muscle cell identity, the development of motor neurons, and the interactions between nerve and muscle that lead to a functioning neuromuscular system. The primary focus will be on vertebrate model systems such as chick, mouse, and fish. We will also examine human diseases, including muscular dystrophies and other neuromuscular disorders.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: NS&B343, BIOL343, BIOL543
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or MB&B182] OR [NS&B213 or MB&B181 AND BIOL182] OR [NS&B213 or MB&B181 AND BIOL182]

NS&B545 Developmental Neurobiology
Near the top of the list of unsolved mysteries in biology is the enigma of how the brain constructs itself. Here is an organ that can make us feel happy, sad, amused, and in love. It responds to light, touch, and sound; it learns; it organizes movements; it controls bodily functions. An understanding of how this structure is constructed during embryonic and postnatal development has begun to emerge from molecular-genetic, cellular, and physiological studies. In this course, we will discuss some of the important events in building the brain and explore the role of genes and the environment in shaping the brain. With each topic in this journey, we will ask what the roles of genes and the environment are in forming the nervous system. We will also discuss developmental disorders resulting from developmental processes that have gone astray. This is a reading-intensive seminar course emphasizing classroom discussions, with readings from a textbook and the primary scientific literature.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: NS&B345, BIOL345, BIOL545

NS&B549 Advanced Research Seminar, Graduate
Advanced research tutorial; project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

NS&B550 Advanced Research Seminar, Graduate
Advanced research tutorial; project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

NS&B555 Laboratory in Cellular and Behavioral Neurobiology
The goals of the course are to introduce students to a number of contemporary laboratory techniques in neuroscience and behavior. The laboratory introduces students to experimental method and techniques including neuroanatomy, immunohistochemistry, primary neuronal and astrocyte cell culture methods, analyses of electrical activity in the brain, and behavioral analyses of learning, memory, social behavior, and social dominance in inbred strains of mice.

Students will learn to analyze experimental data and write a series of laboratory reports on the experiments done during class. In addition, students will write a term paper related to one of the experimental approaches.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: NS&B250, BIOL250
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]

NS&B549 Advanced Research Seminar, Graduate
Advanced research tutorial; project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

NS&B550 Advanced Research Seminar, Graduate
Advanced research tutorial; project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

NS&B555 Laboratory in Cellular and Behavioral Neurobiology
The goals of the course are to introduce students to a number of contemporary laboratory techniques in neuroscience and behavior. The laboratory introduces students to experimental method and techniques including neuroanatomy, immunohistochemistry, primary neuronal and astrocyte cell culture methods, analyses of electrical activity in the brain, and behavioral analyses of learning, memory, social behavior, and social dominance in inbred strains of mice.

Students will learn to analyze experimental data and write a series of laboratory reports on the experiments done during class. In addition, students will write a term paper related to one of the experimental approaches.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: NS&B250, BIOL250
Prereq: [NS&B213 or BIOL213 or PSYC240]