

Department of Biology Course Outline

SC/BIOL 4380 Systems Neuroscience Winter 2017

Course Description

This course investigates the neural basis of visual and auditory perception, echolocation, smell, short- and long-term memory, and motor control. Emphasis is on understanding how neural interactions analyze sensory information and control complex behaviour. Three lecture hours. One term. Three credits.

Prerequisites

SC/BIOL 3060 4.00

Course Instructors and Contact Information

Dr. Heather Jordan
HJordan@yorku.ca
 Mailbox: c/o Farquharson 247

Office
 Stong College 322
 165 Campus Walk
 Course Office hours: Thursday, 5-6 pm

Schedule

Lectures	Thursday 7.00 – 10.00 pm	LSB 105
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Evaluation

The final grade for the course* will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:
 Midterm Examination: 45%
 Final Examination: 55%
 *Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Important Dates

For important dates such as holidays, refer to the "Important Dates" section of the Registrar's Website at <http://www.yorku.ca/yorkweb/cs.htm>

Resources

Suggested Texts:

Purves, D, Augustine, G.J., Fitzpatrick, D., Hall, W.C., LaMantia, A-S, McNamara, J.O. & White, L.E. *Neuroscience*. Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates Inc.
Gazzaniga, M.S., Ivry, R.B. & Mangun, G.R. (2014) *The Cognitive Neurosciences*. 4e MIT Press.
Bear, M.F., Connors, B.W. & Paradiso, M.A. (2007). *Neuroscience: Exploring the Brain*. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Readings (assigned and recommended) will be posted on the Moodle course website.

Course Content

The course involves formal lectures, supplemented by films and videos. The required readings are central to the course and will be posted on the Moodle website.

Course Policies

Evaluation

The midterm exam will consist of approximately 60 questions. The final exam will consist of approximately 120 questions. About 60% of questions will be multiple choice questions and the remaining questions will be made up of short answer questions, including labelling of figures. Students will have 2h (midterm) and 3h (final) to complete the paper. Questions will be discussed and explained in the classroom for all students after the midterm exam.

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests

Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2010-2011/academic/index.htm>)

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the Faculty of Science section of the Undergraduate Calendar:

Missed Midterm and Final:

You MUST email your course director within TWO days (48 hours) of missing the test.

Valid and appropriately detailed documentation supporting the events (typically medical or emergency related) preventing your attendance must be submitted to my mailbox in the Biology Office (Farquharson 247) within SEVEN (7) days of the missed test. Documentation should cover the date of the missed test.

Medical (illness) related: You MUST see a Physician within 24 hours of the missed test – ideally on the same day - so that the Physician can confirm you are too ill to attend the test based on medical examination. Valid documentation for medical situations consists of an “Attending Physician’s Statement” from the registrar petitions package http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/petitions/petition_package.pdf or letter/document of similar detail. A note that simply says you were seen in the clinic will not be accepted.

Death of an immediate family member: death certificate or letter from the funeral Director.

Contact your instructor to determine the appropriate documentation required for other circumstances.

If appropriate documentation is NOT provided within seven (7) days, a zero will be earned on the missed midterm. NOT all situations will be accommodated, meaning that a zero will be earned on the

missed test. Circumstances not accommodated include, but are not limited to: schedule confusion, sleeping in, missing the bus/flight, personal endeavours (including a job), death of family pet, wedding of distant relative and busy lives. A single makeup test will be scheduled approximately one week after the original test. This exam may differ in format from the original test (i.e., include more short/long answer questions). Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

Tests in Alternative Exams

Students with an up-to-date letter of accommodation from the Counselling and Development Centre, which allows them to sit exams as part of the Registrar's Office Alternative Exams scheme, are responsible for scheduling their own exams (<http://www.yorku.ca/altexams/>). To maintain the integrity of the exam, any sitting in alternative exams must be scheduled for the same day as the remainder of the class. Please note that the alternative exams facility now requires 15 business days notice. If a student fails to make a booking in sufficient time, they will have the option of sitting the exam under the same conditions as the other students in the class or receiving an F for the exam. An additional version of the examination will not be set to accommodate a tardy student. It is recommended that every student books the date of the mid-term immediately.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In order to be fair and consistent with regards to the entire class, individual grades are not negotiable. I cannot provide "extra credit" assignments. Marks will not be "rounded" or "bell-curved". Contact the Course Director about marks ONLY if there is a clear error in your grade (calculation, clerical, etc.) within ONE week of the test score being made available to you.

Forum Code of Conduct:

An online Moodle forum will be made available to discuss course concepts, organize study groups, and ask questions relating to Biology. The discussion on the forums has typically been polite and respectful, and we hope this will continue. Students are expected to comply with the following code of conduct when using the Moodle forums:

- Please check to see if your question has already been posted. (A search function is available on the forums.) If your question hasn't already been asked, please post in the most appropriate area.
- Post comments appropriate to the particular discussion. Off-topic posts may be moved or deleted. Only topics relevant to BIOL 4380 should be posted, and all others will be removed.
- Be respectful!!! Posts containing personal insults/ attacks/ intimidation/ profanity will be deleted. (It is worth remembering that your instructors read forum posts!) The poster may be banned from further access to the forum.
- The Instructor may edit, move or delete any posts that violate the code of conduct at her discretion.
- If posts give indications of violations of academic honesty or the York University student code of conduct, further action will be taken.

Recording Lectures:

Photographs or video recordings of any portion of the lectures (including slides) are PROHIBITED. Images and material presented are subject to CANADIAN COPYRIGHT LAW. They may not be distributed or sold to anyone, Audio recordings are permitted provided they are used ONLY as a personal study aid, and are NOT sold, passed on to others or posted online. Remember the lectures are the intellectual property of the professor and cannot be distributed without permission.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) - <http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust2012.pdf>

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website

- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

University Policies

Academic Honesty and Integrity

York students are required to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and they are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty (<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>). The Policy affirms the responsibility of faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to abide by such standards.

There is also an academic integrity website with comprehensive information about academic honesty and how to find resources at York to help improve students' research and writing skills, and cope with University life. Students are expected to review the materials on the Academic Integrity website at - <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/>

Access/Disability

York University is committed to principles of respect, inclusion and equality of all persons with disabilities across campus. The University provides services for students with disabilities (including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at York University.

Students in need of these services are asked to register with disability services as early as possible to ensure that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided with advance notice. You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Please note that registering with disabilities services and discussing your needs with your professors is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs.

Additional information is available at the following websites:

Counselling & Disability Services - <http://cds.info.yorku.ca/>

Counselling & Disability Services at Glendon - <http://www.glendon.yorku.ca/counselling/personal.html>

York Accessibility Hub - <http://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/>

Ethics Review Process

York students are subject to the York University *Policy for the Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants*. In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants (e.g., interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an *Application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants* at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, contact your Course Director immediately.

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the Course director immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf (PDF)

Student Conduct in Academic Situations

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic

atmosphere in the classroom and other academic settings, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. The policy and procedures governing disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available at - <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/disruptive-andor-harassing-behaviour-in-academic-situations-senate-policy/>