
SYLLABUS for INTRO TO NEUROSCIENCE, FALL 2019

NROSCI 1000 – 1210 (24617)

TuTh 11:00-12:15, 169 Crawford (Note: there is no recitation section for this course)

Instructor: Erika E. Fanselow, Ph.D., Department of NeuroscienceOffice: 449 Crawford Hall (enter through 446 Crawford)Office phone: 412-383-6051Email: fanselow@pitt.eduOffice hours: 12:30-1:30 PM on Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 PM on Fridays, or by appointmentGraduate Teaching Assistant (office hours by appointment):Stephanie Aldrich (sba21@pitt.edu)Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (office hours by appointment):Melissa Alvarez (mea94@pitt.edu)Isha Kumbam (isk12@pitt.edu)Carly Lapinski (cal176@pitt.edu)Dominick Openko (openkod@pitt.edu)Danyal Quraishi (daq5@pitt.edu)Maisie Ruble (mar318@pitt.edu)

Course materials**Recommended textbook (not required, but highly recommended):**Neuroscience, 6th edition, 2017, by Purves *et al.***CourseWeb materials:**

The slides posted on CourseWeb (<https://courseweb.pitt.edu>) will outline much of the important information relevant to the course and exams. **However, there will be further information presented in class that supplements the posted slides and for which you will be responsible on exams.** The recommended textbook (see below) covers roughly the same material as this course and may aid in understanding and expanding on topics we discuss. In some cases, this book goes into more depth than we will cover in this course.

CourseWeb will also be used to post course announcements. Important announcements may also be sent to your university email account (name@pitt.edu). Announcements, information, course changes, and documents posted to CourseWeb are REQUIRED content for the course (unless you are told otherwise) **so please check the CourseWeb page often and pay attention to posted announcements.**

Email: Any official email communications regarding this course will be delivered to students' University of Pittsburgh email address, in accordance with the University of Pittsburgh email communication policy. <http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html>. Students who wish to forward their Pitt email to another account do so at their own risk. Please see the University Email Communication Policy in the Academic Policies section near the end of the syllabus.

Course Grades

Your course grade will be based on the following:

1. Four exams (one per block), worth 100 points each
2. Eight online quizzes (two per block), worth 10 points each
3. The comprehensive final exam, worth 100 points

You may drop one quiz and one exam (including the final exam) for the term (see below for details). The total number of points you earn will be divided by the total points possible to determine your course grade. The total points possible will vary, depending on whether you drop an exam, whether you drop a quiz, or both. **There are no opportunities for extra credit in this course.**

Course grades will be determined based on the following ranges:

A+	97-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	< 60%
A	93-96%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%		
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

Exams

In-term exams: There will be four exams given during the term (see dates on course schedule on last page of this syllabus). These exams will all be closed-book and closed-notes. They will not be cumulative, except for the fact that the material learned later in the course will naturally build on material covered earlier. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions. Exams will cover all material presented in class and on the slides posted on CourseWeb. You may choose to drop one of these four in-class exams, but if you do so, you ***MUST*** then take the cumulative final exam. **If you need to miss one of these four exams for any reason (including, but not limited to, illness or family emergency), that missed exam will be your dropped exam for the term, cannot be made up, and you will need to take the final exam.**

Final exam: The format of the final exam will be similar to that of the in-term exams, except that it will be comprehensive. It will be held during finals week, on **Wednesday, December 11th, from 8:00 - 9:50 AM**. The room for the final exam will be determined by the University during the term and will be posted on CourseWeb. If you have taken all four of the in-term exams AND you are satisfied with your course grade prior to the final exam, you may choose not to take the comprehensive final exam, and it will serve as your dropped exam.

You are expected to take each exam at its scheduled date and time. If unanticipated circumstances (*e.g.*, illness, death in the family) make it impossible for you to take an exam at the scheduled time, **you must** contact me prior to the scheduled date to make other arrangements. It is preferable that you speak with me directly but, at a minimum, you must send me an email (fanselow@pitt.edu) and/or leave a message on my telephone answering machine (412-383-6051) before the exam. Also, the circumstances that prevent you from being present must be documented (*e.g.*, letter from physician, obituary). I understand that some of you may miss an exam due to interviews for graduate or medical school, or for another acceptable reason (*e.g.* religious observance, military service). In cases like this where you know in advance that you cannot make the exam at the scheduled time, you need to make arrangements with me **at least one week prior to the exam** so we can find a time for you to take it, either before you leave or after you return. You will receive a zero for the exam if you do not follow these policies. **There will be no exceptions.**

Pre-exam review sessions:

Review sessions will be held prior to each exam, including the final. The dates and times for these pre-exam review sessions will be indicated on CourseWeb once their rooms have been reserved. The pre-exam review sessions will include answering students' questions about the material, so please bring any questions you have.

Post-exam viewing sessions:

Exams will be available for students to view only until the subsequent exam is taken. Grades for exams will be posted on CourseWeb after all of the exams have been graded, and you may view your exam during the post-

exam viewing sessions that will be scheduled after each exam. The dates and times for these post-exam viewing sessions will be indicated on CourseWeb once the rooms for them have been scheduled. If you are unable to make it to these sessions, contact the instructor or the graduate TA to schedule an appointment to view your exam. No exam questions may be copied or photographed in any way, and exams may not be removed from classrooms or review sessions.

Quizzes

There will be a total of eight online quizzes (two per block). Each quiz is worth 10 points, and you may drop one quiz. **If you miss one of these eight quizzes for any reason (including, but not limited to, illness or family emergency), that missed quiz will be your dropped quiz for the term and cannot be made up.** The purposes of the quizzes include encouraging you to keep up with the material, highlighting topics you might be struggling with, and becoming familiar with the formats of questions that will be on the exams (though please note that the quizzes do not include short-answer format questions; they are multiple-choice only). The quizzes are open-book/notes. You can take each quiz only once, and once you start it you will have 30 minutes to complete it. Answers to the quiz questions will be made available after the quiz due date and time. You may find the questions and answers by clicking on the number that indicates your quiz score on CourseWeb.

Quizzes will be available on CourseWeb by approximately 7:00 PM on the dates indicated on the course schedule at the end of the syllabus, and they are **due by 11:59 PM** several days later, as indicated on the course schedule. Students must submit their answers on CourseWeb **BY 11:59 PM** on the indicated due dates to get points for correct answers. Each quiz will be closed (*i.e.* unavailable) at 11:59 PM on the day it is due, and will not be available thereafter. If you experience technical problems with accessing a quiz or while taking it, email me (fanselow@pitt.edu) immediately; this must be done BEFORE the quiz is due. Please also take a screenshot of the error message, including the time when you experienced it. I encourage you not to leave quizzes until the last minute, in case you do have technical issues.

Office hours and appointments

Office hours for this course will be held weekly in my office, as indicated on the first page of the syllabus (subject to occasional changes during the term, when necessary). Additionally, I am available to meet with you outside of these times to address any questions you have regarding the material covered in lectures or assignments. If you would like to set up an appointment, send me an email that contains several times that are best for you to meet during the upcoming week and I will get back to you regarding which of those times would fit into my schedule or suggest other times, if necessary. You are also welcome to contact any of the TAs for this course and schedule a time to meet with them on campus at a time and location that is convenient for them. I cannot guarantee I will have time to meet if contacted with less than 48 business hours' notice, especially in the week or so prior to an exam. Also, be aware that if I or the TAs set a time to meet with you, we do reserve that time for you. Please be considerate and be on time, or give at least 24 business hours' notice if you need to cancel.

Academic policies

Academic Integrity: Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed. (For the full Academic Integrity policy, go to www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html). Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries, phones, "smart" watches, programmable calculators, and other devices that could be used to retrieve, send, or store information such as course material.

The integrity of the academic process requires fair and impartial evaluation on the part of faculty and honest academic conduct on the part of students. To this end, students are expected to conduct themselves at a high level of responsibility in the fulfillment of the course of their study. It is the corresponding responsibility of faculty to make clear to students those standards by which students will be evaluated, and the resources permissible for use by students during the course of their study and evaluation. The educational process is perceived as a joint faculty-student enterprise which will perforce involve professional judgment by faculty and may involve – without penalty- reasoned exception by students to the data or views offered by faculty.

Email Communication Policy: Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on **Edit Forwarding Addresses**, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html.)

Disability Services: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-383-3346 (Fax), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Accessibility: Blackboard is ADA Compliant and has fully implemented the final accessibility standards for electronic and information technology covered by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. Please note that, due to the flexibility provided in this product, it is possible for some material to inadvertently fall outside of these guidelines.

Copyright Notice: These materials may be protected by copyright. United States copyright law, 17 USC section 101, et seq., in addition to University policy and procedures, prohibit unauthorized duplication or retransmission of course materials. See [Library of Congress Copyright Office](#) and the [University Copyright Policy](#).

Statement on Classroom Recording: To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

Prohibition Against Electronic Devices During Exams: All electronic devices capable of sending, receiving, or storing information are expressly forbidden from use during exams in this course. This includes cell phones, text messaging devices, iPods, iPads, PDAs, cell watches, and similar devices that may not even have been invented yet.

Natural Science General Education Requirement: This course fulfills one Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Natural Science General Education Requirement (GER) as described for the GERs starting Fall 2018 (term 2191). That GER reads as follows: *Three Courses in the Natural Sciences:* These will be courses that introduce students to scientific principles and concepts rather than offering a simple codification of facts in a discipline or a history of a discipline. The courses may be interdisciplinary, and no more than two courses may have the same primary departmental sponsor.

COURSE SCHEDULE for INTRO TO NEUROSCIENCE, FALL 2019, Dr. Fanselow

PLEASE NOTE: the material we cover in each block may vary slightly from this schedule, depending on the durations of lectures and discussions in class. Dates for the exams and quizzes will only include material we have covered prior to the exam or quiz due date, and these dates will not change (barring unforeseen circumstances).

BLOCK 1

- Unit 1: Introduction
- Unit 2: Neuroanatomy
- Unit 3: Neurophysiology

Quiz 1: posted on CourseWeb 9/6; due 9/10 by 11:59 PM

Quiz 2: posted on CourseWeb 9/13; due 9/17 by 11:59 PM

EXAM 1: 9/19 (in class)

BLOCK 2

- Unit 4: Synapses and neurotransmitters
- Unit 5: Visual system
- Unit 6: Auditory system

Quiz 3: posted on CourseWeb 10/1; due 10/4 by 11:59 PM

Quiz 4: posted on CourseWeb 10/8; due 10/11 by 11:59 PM

EXAM 2: 10/15 (in class)

BLOCK 3

- Unit 7: Chemical senses
- Unit 8: Somatosensory system
- Unit 9: Motor system
- Unit 10: Cerebellum

Quiz 5: posted on CourseWeb 10/24; due 10/28 by 11:59 PM

Quiz 6: posted on CourseWeb 10/29; due 11/1 by 11:59 PM

EXAM 3: 11/5 (in class)

BLOCK 4

- Unit 11: Vestibular system
- Unit 12: Basal ganglia
- Unit 13: Language and sleep
- Unit 14: Memory, Alzheimer's disease
- Unit 15: Autonomic nervous system and anxiety
- Unit 16: Limbic system, mood disorders, and schizophrenia

Quiz 7: posted on CourseWeb 11/12; due 11/15 by 11:59 PM

Quiz 8: posted on CourseWeb 11/19; due 11/22 by 11:59 PM

EXAM 4: 12/3 (in class)

FINAL EXAM: 12/11, 8:00-9:50, location TBD