



## **NSCI 708: Special Topics in Neuroscience**

**Course Description:** Advanced critical reading of current literature on a hot topic in Neuroscience.

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Prerequisites:** Must be a student in good standing in the Program in Neuroscience and must have completed NSCI 701. This course is required for all first year students in Neuroscience and elective for all other students in Neuroscience.

**Course Dates:** Summer semester (May 26-July 31, 2020)

**Course Times:** 1-2 hours per week meeting with faculty mentor(s)

**Course Location:** TBD

**Instructor:** Course Director – Junie P. Warrington, Ph.D., TR419, x5-8969, [jpwarrington@umc.edu](mailto:jpwarrington@umc.edu).  
Faculty Mentors - All faculty in the Graduate Program in Neuroscience.

**Required Text and Other Learning Resources:** Each group of faculty mentors will assign 1-2 publications per week (i.e. at least 10 publications per semester) in the topic area.

**Course Overview:** This course provides students with an opportunity to acquire advanced knowledge in a neuroscience research topic, under faculty supervision. Groups of 3-5 faculty members will offer an array of topics each summer, and students can choose one topic. Students will meet each week throughout the summer semester with one or more faculty members to critically discuss the assigned reading materials. Weekly discussions and reading will be on 1-2 papers assigned by the faculty mentors.

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course:

1. Students will be able to critically read and evaluate the current literature in neuroscience.
2. Students will have acquired advanced and current knowledge on the research topic.
3. Students will be able to apply this advanced knowledge to their area of research.

**Grading Policy and Rubric:** Grading is Pass/Fail and based on two assessments:

1. Graded article presentation: At the conclusion of the semester, students will present an oral "journal club"-like presentation on one paper selected by the student on the research topic to the group of faculty mentors for the specific topic.
2. Grade assigned by the team of faculty mentors for the specific topic.

**Course Policies:** Students are expected to read the assigned papers and spend one-two hours in

discussion with the faculty mentor(s) per week.

**University Policies:**

Students with disabilities (ADA) statement - Refer to UMC policy Academic honesty statement - Refer to UMC and SGSHS policies