



NSCI 720: Neuroscience Journal Club

Course Description: A review of significant issues in neuroscience including literature review and discussion of recent data and news.

Credit Hours: 1

Course Prerequisites: Students must be enrolled in or have taken NSCI 701.

Course Dates: Fall, Spring Semesters

Course Times: Monday, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Course Location: TRC-401

Instructor: Eric Vallender, PhD

Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior

Office: TRC-409

Office hours by appointment

Telephone: 601-984-5983

E-mail: evallender@umc.edu

Required Text and Other Learning Resources: Journal articles will be chosen by individual students with input from faculty facilitators. Articles will be posted to Canvas and distributed to invited faculty one week before presentation.

Course Overview: The students will read and provide a brief overview as well as necessary background for significant journal articles. Presentations will identify the key points and stimulate discussion. Presentations will focus on the context of the studies, major findings, authors' conclusions, strengths and limitations of the research, and opportunities for further research. If needed, the presentation will also explain methods likely to be unfamiliar to most of the audience. Presentations should allow ample time for discussion. All students are expected to contribute to the discussion of the presented article.

COVID-19 Contingencies: During AY20-21, NSCI 720 will operate as a hybrid online/in-person course. All presentations will occur on BigBlueButton (or Webex) and be recorded. SGSHS permitting, the Course Director and first year Program in Neuroscience graduate students will continue to meet in person in TRC-401. The presenter will be given the option to present via BigBlueButton (or Webex) remotely or in-person. The remaining students will participate online and are expected to have webcams on for the entirety of the class.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate scientific literature
2. Place scientific literature in context and research necessary background information
3. Present a meaningful synopsis of a scientific manuscript
4. Participate in a scientific discussion.

Grading Policy and Rubric. Students receive a Pass/Fail grade based on attendance (students are permitted absences), quality of presentation and participation in the discussion of the papers.

Presentation quality will be evaluated by faculty moderators in consultation with other faculty participants. Adherence to the guidelines given for presentation, evidence of adequate preparation, and professionalism during the presentation will be the primary determinants. Presentation skills, including visual aids, and skill at answering questions and leading a discussion will be secondary criteria.

Course Policies:

Course attendance is part of the grade for NSCI 720. In order to pass the attendance portion of the grade, students must attend 80% of scheduled classes. Journal articles will be available at least a week before each scheduled class. Students are expected to read these articles prior to class and be prepared to participate in the discussion.

University Policies:

Students with disabilities (ADA) statement Refer to UMMC policy
s Academic honesty statement Refer to UMMC policy