

SYLLABUS NSCI 3101: INTRODUCTION TO NEUROSCIENCE

Course Times: MWF 9:05-9:55

Room: 3-100 Mayo

Text: Neuroscience by Purves et al. 4th Edition, 2008 Sinauer Pub

<u>Instructors:</u>	<u>Office Location</u>	<u>email</u>	<u>Office Hours*</u>
Lorene Lanier, PhD	4-140 MCB	lanie002@umn.edu	Tues. 10:00-12:00 Thurs. 2:00- 4:00 Fri. 10:00-11:30
Paul Mermelstein, PhD	4-146 Jackson Hall	pmerm@umn.edu	Wed. 11:00-12:00 Fri. 10:00-11:00
Paul Letourneau, PhD	4-160B Jackson Hall	letou001@umn.edu	MWF 11:00-12:00

TA
TBD

*or by appointment. The instructors' regular office hours are held only during their lecture weeks. However, appointments can be made any time during the semester.

When emailing an instructor or TA, please use your @umn.edu email account and put Nsci3101 in the subject line. This will ensure that your email gets read by the proper person. If you email from any other account or fail to put 3101 in the subject line, there is a high likelihood that your email will be filtered out and not read.

Lecture notes:

Instructors' lecture notes and other useful information will be posted on the course Moodle site and periodically updated (note – instructors may choose to post their lecture notes before or after the lecture.)

To access the Moodle server

You must have an [Internet IDs](#) (X500 account) and be registered for the class:

1. Go to Moodle server page at <http://moodle.umn.edu>
2. Click Login link in the upper right corner, and enter your University Internet ID/password.
3. You will see the list of Moodle sites to which you already have access as an instructor or a student.

You also will be able to review other sites and [self-enroll](#) into those as a student, if they are open for public access.

Remember to log out and close all browser windows when you are finished using Moodle

Grades: The course is graded on a straight percent scale. There will NOT be a curve.

A:	≥93	A-:	90-92	B+:	87-89	B:	83-86
B-:	80-82	C+:	77-79	C:	73-76	C-:	70-72
D+:	67-69	D:	63-66	F:	0-62		

Course Grading:

7 exams (100 pts each)	700pts
class participation (25 pts)	<u>25pts</u>
Maximum Point Total	725 pts

Exams:

- There are 7 exams
 - Previous years had only 4 exams, which meant that each exam covered more information and had a bigger impact on the final grade. In response to comments from previous students, we have increased the number of exams.
 - All exams are weighted equally
 - Exams are NOT cumulative, but a working knowledge of the previous topics will certainly help on subsequent exams
 - No, we will NOT drop the lowest grade
 - Contesting a question? You have 1 week following the exam test date to contest a question.
 - Last year's exams are posted on the course Moodle site (there were only 4 exams last year, so the division of topics on the exams will be different).
- Format of exams
 - Exam material will be taken from lectures and assigned readings. While there is a great deal of overlap between the lectures and readings, lectures may cover additional material or explain concepts in greater depth than the readings.
 - All exams are multiple-response, meaning that while there is generally one correct/best answer, some questions may have more than one correct answer. The student **MUST** choose only one answer and will not be given credit if more than one bubble is filled in on the Scantron form.
 - Approximately 50% of the questions will test basic knowledge and comprehension. For example, define terms, order steps in a pathway, give relationships (e.g. bigger, smaller, faster, etc...), or identify structures.
 - Approximately 25% of the questions will require the student to apply knowledge to predict the outcome of a novel situation. For example, if the student has learned the relationship between X and Y, s/he should be able to predict what happens to X when Y is changed.
 - Approximately 25% of the questions will require the student to critically evaluate/analyze hypothetical data and determine the most likely outcome or whether the data support a given hypothesis.
- Make-up exams
 - Will only be allowed following a documented medical or legal emergency.
 - Make-up exams may be oral or short answer (format at the discretion of the instructor, the student does NOT get to choose) and will be proctored by the course director and TA.
 - If you miss an exam without medical or legal documentation, you will receive a 0 on that exam.
 - If you miss an exam and have medical or legal documentation, one make-up exam will be scheduled one-time and one-time only. Failure to take the make-up exam at the scheduled time (for any reason), results in a grade of 0 for that exam.
 - You may only miss 1 exam. Therefore, a second medical emergency will result in an incomplete grade for this semester and you will be required to take all 7 exams next year.

Class Participation:

- You may notice that class participation is worth a bit more than 3% of the total grade...just enough to bum you up one grade.
- Points will be given for a completed activity/ assignment, regardless of whether the answer is correct.
- Each completed activity/assignment will receive the same number of points (actual point value will thus be determined by the total number of activities)
- Activities/assignments may include, but are not limited to:
 - At some point during the semester, each student will be called on **by name** to answer a question posed by the instructor
 - ‘minute papers’ in which the students will write a short answer to a question posed by the instructor during class (answers turned in at the end of class)
 - homework questions assigned at the end of class and turned in before the start of the next lecture
- Only those activities designated as “class participation” will receive points (this means you cannot do additional work for extra points)

Best Ways to do well in this Course

- 1) Do all the assigned reading.
- 2) Attend all lectures
- 3) Show up on time (many important announcements are made during the beginning of each class!)
- 4) Earn those class participation points...
- 5) Take notes - the online lecture notes do **NOT** contain all the information covered in class
- 6) Study, study, study! Do not let yourself get behind- this class covers a lot of material and you will get behind unless you study every day.
- 7) Use the Publisher’s Review Questions and list of Key Terms (posted on the Moodle site) as a tool for testing your knowledge
- 8) Ask questions:
 - a. During class. Don’t be shy – chances are that many other students are wondering the same thing.
 - b. Ask the professor or TA questions during their office hours
- 9) Make additional appointments to see the TAs/Instructors if you need further assistance
- 10) Read the advice from previous students – they have many suggestions for how to study.