

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

BMED 1108-01 : Introduction to Med Neuroscience

SYLLABUS – SPRING 2016

INSTRUCTOR & OFFICE HOURS:

Dr. Hongxing Lu
Office: BRHP 1.113
Office Phone: 956-882-8828
Email: hongxing.lu@utrgv.edu

OFFICE HOURS:

M W 10 AM – 12 PM

MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION:

Jan 19, 2016 - Mar 08, 2016 W 9:00 am - 10:40 am
Brownsville Campus Biomed Reseach Prof Bldg # 99 1.207

Textbook and/or Resource Material

Neuroscience (2011)

SBN/ISSN: 9781451155730

Prerequisites:

Consent of advisor

Course Description

In this course, General principles of the function and organization of nervous systems, providing both an overview of the subject and a foundation for advanced courses. Topics include the physical and chemical bases for action potentials, synaptic transmission, and sensory transduction; anatomy; development; sensory and motor pathways; memory and learning at the molecular, cellular, and systems level; and the neuroscience of brain diseases.

Course Learning Outcomes

As you do the activities in this course, you will work toward demonstrating competence in each of these programmatic objectives:

1. To build a solid understanding of our current scientific knowledge of the brain. This includes knowledge of neuroscience methods, brain anatomy, neural communication, sensation, motor control, and the production of complex behaviors.
2. To build a solid understanding of the basic chemical and evolutionary principles of life. Specifically, an understanding of a) the basic building blocks of life and their inter-relationships ('the central dogma'), and b) the principles of evolution.
3. To gain a thorough understanding of the scientific process. This includes an understanding of the fallibility of human reason, the scientific method, experimental design, and the social/institutional structures related to scientific endeavors.
4. Finally, to gain skills in reading and digesting neuroscience research reports

Grading Policies

You will complete a variety of lab assignments throughout the course, and you will be evaluated by your instructor using a rubric that assesses whether you have met the objectives above.

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Exam 1 | 20% |
| Exam 2 | 20% |
| Exam 3 | 20% |
| Presentation | 20% |
| Quiz | 20% |

| Score Range | Grade |
|-------------|-------|
| 90-100 | A |
| 80-89 | B |
| 70-79 | C |
| 60-69 | D |
| <60 | F |

Calendar of Activities

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at <http://my.utrgv.edu> at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Important dates for spring 2016 include:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jan. 19 th | Classes begin |
| Feb. 3 rd | Census day |
| March 14-18 | Spring Break |
| April 13 th | Drop/Withdrawal deadline |
| May 5 th | Study day |
| May 6-12 | Final Exams |
| May 14 th | Commencement |

| Date | Topic | Assignment Due |
|--------|--|----------------|
| Week 1 | Neuron structure and energy metabolism | |
| Week 2 | Signaling | quiz 1 |
| Week 3 | Signaling | exam 1 |
| Week 4 | Neurotransmitter | quiz2 |
| Week 5 | Neurotransmitter | Exam 2 |
| Week 6 | Brain | quiz 3 |
| Week 7 | Presentation | exam 3 |

Absence and Makeup Policy

Laboratory attendance and assignments are mandatory and if you miss lab, you forfeit the points for that lab. If an excused absence is unavoidable, at the professor's discretion, students may complete a make up lab at another time.

UTRGV Policy Statements

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located

in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV's attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student's time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS:

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the "3-peat rule" and the "6-drop" rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.