**Introduction to Neuroscience**

**NROSCI 1000 - 1210**

**(29056)**

**Fall Term, 2015 (2161)**

**Instructor**:

Debra Artim, Ph.D.

Department of Neuroscience

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Office hours: Monday 3:00 – 4:00 PM; Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30 PM, or by appointment. If you are unavailable during regular office hours, please feel free to make an appointment. The best way to make an appointment is via e-mail.

**Lecture**

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 AM – 12:15, 169 Crawford Hall

**Review Session (optional, but encouraged!)**:

Friday, 3:00 – 4:30 PM, A214 Langley Hall, begins Sept. 11, 2015

**Course Textbook (very strongly recommended):**

 Neuroscience 5th Edition, 2012, Editors: Purves et al.

Required: Scientific calculator capable of *ln* and log functions.

**(No graphing, phone or programmable calculators will be allowed for exams)**

**Course website:** [courseweb.pitt.edu](https://courseweb.pitt.edu/) Check here for announcements, handouts, grades, and useful links. Lecture handouts will generally be posted on the class CourseWeb site the day prior to lecture. There is also an online discussion board for the course. Please feel free to post (or answer!) questions or comments regarding the material.

**Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to the structure and function of the nervous system. The course is comprised of four sections: 1) Nervous system anatomy and molecular and cellular physiology of neurons, 2) Sensory systems, 3) Somatic and Visceral motor systems, 4) Complex Brain Functions (Emotions, Memory, Language).

**Academic Integrity:**

Please refer to the School of Arts and Sciences web page for details on academic integrity: <http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html>

**Disabilities and Special Needs:**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. Please go to the Student Affairs website at <http://www.drs.pitt.edu/> for more information.

**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.

**Assignments and Grading:**

 **Exams:**

There will be a total of 5 exams: 4 “unit” exams that are non-cumulative plus a cumulative final exam. All exam dates are on the course schedule. Your lowest exam score out of the 5 exams will be dropped (even if it is the final). The 4 highest exam scores will be equally weighted and averaged to determine 80% of your final grade. The practical application for you is that if you are satisfied with your grade at the end of 4 exams, you may skip (drop) the final examination!

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false and short answer. Exams will cover material covered in class lectures, most of the material will also be covered in the assigned readings, but some will not be covered in the textbook. Students are responsible for ALL material covered in class regardless of the source. All powerpoint slides will be available on CourseWeb prior to class. Students are NOT responsible for textbook information that is not covered in lecture, even if it included in the assigned readings.

**Make-up exams:**

 Make-up exams will NOT be given. Any missed exam will earn a grade of “0” which can be dropped as your lowest grade (see above). Any student with acceptable exam conflicts (e.g. University-related competitions, research conference, scheduled surgery) must discuss with Dr. Artim AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE the exam and proper documentation must be provided. An earlier exam can then be arranged, depending on the circumstances. If you miss an exam because you are sick, missed the bus, overslept, you wanted to go to your little brother’s football game, or your best friend needs your help moving etc, that will be the exam grade of 0 that you drop. Please remember, that in this case, you **will** need to take the cumulative final exam.

**Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be available on CourseWeb 3-4 days prior to the due date, which are indicated on the course schedule. Students must post their answers **before** class on the indicated due dates to get points for correct answers. The purpose of the quizzes is to encourage you to study and become familiar with the material as well as the types of questions that will be on the exams. Quizzes are a good way to help students gauge their basic understanding of course material. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. The total performance on the remaining 10 quizzes will determine 20% of your final grade.

**Final grade** = Four exam scores (400 points) + 10 quizzes (100 points) = 500 total points

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| **Grading Scale** |
| Letter Grade | Percentage Range |  | Letter Grade | Percentage Range |
| A+ | 98.0-100 |  | C+ | 78.0-79.9 |
| A | 93.0-97.9 |  | C | 72.0-77.9 |
| A- | 90.0-91.9 |  | C- | 70.0-71.9 |
| B+ | 88.0-89.9 |  | D | 60.0-69.9 |
| B | 82.0-87.9 |  | F | Below 60 |
| B- | 80.0-81.9 |  |  |  |