Biology of the Brain (BIOL 859) - Fall 2015

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Surabhi Chandra
Office: BHS 343
Virtual Office hours: Friday 10-11 am; or by appointment
Phone: 308-865 8695
Email: chandras2@unk.edu (preferred contact); emails responded within 48 hours

Textbook and Computer Requirements

Required Text: Neuroscience: Exploring the Brain (4th edition); ISBN 9781451107272
Computer: You will need to have an up-to-date browser (Firefox is preferred), operating system and some additional software on your computer in order to take this class. Some of the documents in this course will be available in PDF form. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer, you can download it from https://get.adobe.com/reader/

Course Description and Objectives

Course Description:
This course will focus on the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) and will include gross anatomical features and landmarks of the cerebral hemispheres, diencephalons, brainstem, cerebellum and spinal cord. Selected abnormal functions will also be studied. The interdependency of the central nervous system to itself (various pathways between the spinal cord and within the brain) as well as to the peripheral nervous system and select organ systems will complete the focus of the course. It is recommended that students have taken anatomy and physiology before enrolling in this course.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the relationship between anatomical features of the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) and their function
- Learn about neural connections and development of human behavior
- Gain knowledge on the effects of aging on the nervous system, and the development of brain/neural diseases
- Be able to justify and provide prevention methods to maintain active functioning of the brain

Course Format, Access, and Attendance

Course Format:
Because this is a web-based course and conducted entirely online, it is extremely important that you regularly check your UNK email and Blackboard. In this course students will demonstrate their level of achievement by completing tests, participating in discussion boards, and submitting assignments, which will be completed online.

Course Access: After accessing the course on blackboard “2015F BIOL 85901 Biology of the Brain”, use the links on the left of the screen for syllabus, modules, lectures, discussions, quizzes, assignments, or additional resources.

Attendance:
Since this is an online course, “attendance” refers to checking blackboard announcements, reading the content, doing the activities, and submitting the assignments by the deadline. It is required that you should be logging in the course at least 3-4 times a week. The instructor can check if you have been accessing the course regularly or not. You are advised to allot specific times on several days of the week.
Surabhi Chandra, Ph.D.

(MWF or TTh) towards this course similar to your regular in-class sessions. Print a copy of the schedule on the last page and paste it at a prominent place to keep track of deadlines.

**Course Design**

The course is outlined in the form of modules as mentioned below. Each module will entail reading the textbook chapters, watching the lecture videos posted on blackboard, reading additional resources, and participating in a quiz. In addition to the quizzes, there will be a mid-term and final exam, and 2 assignments during the semester. The details on these will be provided as per their schedule.

**Modules:** There will be 5 modules in this course (schedule on the last page) which are categorized based on the content covered. You will be able to access only one module at a time, and will not be graded for the previous module if the deadline is over.

**Lecture Videos:** The lecture videos will be posted on Tuesday of each week by noon. The content covered in these will be primarily from the textbook.

**Quiz:** Topics covered in the quiz will be announced on blackboard (Schedule on the last page). Content would include chapters covered in the week and additional reading materials provided in blackboard. Quizzes will be open on Friday @ 8 am until Sunday @ midnight. These will typically include 5 multiple choice questions and 2 short answers. Two of the lowest scores from these quizzes will be dropped at the end of the semester.

**Mid-Term and Final Exam:** These exams would comprise of content from textbook chapters only.

**Assignments:** There will be two assignments in this course. Details and assessment rubric will be posted on blackboard. You will be submitting these assignments through “SafeAssign”- the link will be available on blackboard a week before the due date.

**Course Communication**

**Announcements:** Announcements will be posted in Blackboard when you log in and will be sent directly to your UNK email also. Please make sure to check them regularly, as they will contain important information regarding assignments, or class concerns.

**Discussion Board:**

Discussion Board will be used as a means of online communication between students and the instructor.

**Original Post:** Each module in this course would have a discussion board. Please read the material assigned, and respond to the question posted. You can create your own post by clicking on “create new thread” once you access the forum. The length of the post must be minimum of 150-200 words with critical and thoughtful explanation of the topics. Provide a title for your post.

**Reply to Postings:** There will be a minimum of 1 response that you are required to provide on other students’ postings. These responses should not be limited to one word such as “bravo”, “nice” or use internet lingo (LOL, ROFL etc.). Typical responses should be at least 2-3 sentences after carefully analyzing the post and providing your inputs. You will not be able to reply unless you have submitted your original post.

**Grading** - Grading rubric for discussion boards will be provided on Blackboard. Each original post will be worth 7 points and response will be 3 points.

**Coffee House:** Since this is an online course, it is normal to have questions regarding assignments, tests, and lecture material. You post these questions in the COFFEE HOUSE forum under Discussion Board. This will be an open forum where you can help each other.
Grades

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<th>Points</th>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Total:** 705 points

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- 100 – 90%: A grades (>98% = A+; 97-92% = A; 91-90% = A-)
- 89 – 80%: B grades (89-88% = B+; 87-82%= B; 81-80% = B-)
- 79 – 70%: C grades (79-78% = C+; 77-72%= C; 71-70% = C-)
- 69 – 60%: D grades (69-68% = D+; 67-62%= D; 61-60% =D-)
- 60% and lower – F grade

Other Course Policies

Late Work: Late work will not be accepted. If you have an extenuating circumstance, please contact me before the assignment/work is due to make alternate arrangements. I will require documentation in such cases.

Dropping the Class: In order to avoid getting an F for the course, it is your responsibility to officially withdraw from the course prior to the deadline (4:30 pm Friday, October 23). Withdrawing from a class is done through your secure student account in myBlue.

Receiving an Incomplete: An incomplete (“I”) is issued only if circumstances beyond your control (for example, hospitalization during finals week) prevent you from completing the required work for the class by the end of the semester. The circumstances preventing you from finishing the class must have arisen after the withdraw deadline. An incomplete grade will give you an extension to complete outstanding work only; it is not an opportunity to "start over" in the class. A contract must be signed detailing a timeline for completing the work, and all outstanding work must be completed within one year or the "I" grade automatically converts to a failing “F” grade. The conversion of an incomplete grade to a failing grade is university policy and is not within the control of instructor.

Ethics and Behavior

You should be following the highest ethical, academic, and professional standards. The University’s Academic Integrity policy is listed in Article VI of the Student Handbook. UNK Student Handbook or (http://www.unk.edu/offices/reslife.aspx?id=2402). Use of proper language and maintaining appropriate decorum is expected during the course. Discussion boards will be moderated and any use of abusive/foul language will be dealt strictly and can result in expulsion from the university.

Copyright and Plagiarism Policy

All lecture videos and additional contents posted in this course is subjected to copyright restriction. Work CANNOT be used, adapted, copied, or published without the instructor’s permission. Plagiarism from peers or from other sources is not acceptable, and will be subjected to a grade penalty.

Students with Disabilities or Those Who are Pregnant

Students with disabilities or those who are pregnant are encouraged to contact me for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with
documented disabilities or those who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with UNK Disabilities Services Coordinator, David Brandt, in the Academic Success Office, 163 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email brandtdl@unk.edu. For those needing accommodation due to pregnancy, you need to visit with Student Health. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students

Reporting Student Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence or Sexual Assault

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources:

Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency 308-237-2599
Campus Police (or Security) 308-627-4811
Title IX Coordinator 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated.

Additional Resources

Tech Support: Available through email at unkhelpdesk@unk.edu or phone 308-865-8363.
Learning Commons: UNK provides student services for proof reading your documents. To submit papers online for Learning Commons’ writing tutors to review, click here. A tutor will respond within three days, not counting weekends.

Course Schedule

Module 1- Foundations of Nervous System
This will comprise reading chapters 2, 6 and 7 from the text, reading supplemental research articles, and participating in discussion forum, and a quiz.

Module 2- Sensory and Motor Systems
This will comprise reading chapters 8, 9, 10 and 11 from the text, reading supplemental research articles, and participating in discussion forum, and a quiz.

Mid-term Exam will be held after Module 2

Module 3- Brain, Behavior, and Emotion
This will comprise reading chapters 15 and 18 from the text, reading supplemental research articles, and participating in discussion forum, and a quiz.

Module 4- Sleep and Memory
This will comprise reading chapters 19 and 24 from the text, reading supplemental research articles, and participating in discussion forum, and a quiz.

Module 5- Language and Mental Illness
This will comprise reading chapters 20 and 22 from the text, reading supplemental research articles, and participating in discussion forum, and a quiz.

Final Exam
# Biology of the Brain (BIOL 859)  
**Fall 2015**

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<th>Module</th>
<th>Chapters Tested</th>
<th>Assignments/Discussion Board Due</th>
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<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>Chapter 2; quiz 1 (due by Sunday, Aug 30 @ midnight)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>Chapter 7; quiz 2 (due by Sunday, Sep 6 @ midnight)</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>Chapter 6; quiz 3 (due by Sunday, Sep 13 @ midnight)</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion board 1 posting (original and response)</strong> due by Monday, Sep 14 @ midnight</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Chapter 8; quiz 4 (due by Sunday, Sep 20 @ midnight)</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Chapter 9; quiz 5 (due by Sunday, Sep 27 @ midnight)</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Chapter 10; quiz 6 (due by Sunday, Oct 4 @ midnight)</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Chapter 11; quiz 7 (due by Sunday, Oct 11 @ midnight)</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion board 2 posting (original and response)</strong> due by Monday, Oct 12 @ midnight</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Mid-term Exam: Chapters 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (open from Monday, Oct 12 @ 8 am to Friday, Oct 16 @ midnight)</td>
<td>Assignment 1 due by Tuesday, Oct 20 @ midnight</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>Chapter 15; no quiz</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>Chapter 18; quiz 8 (due by Sunday, Nov 1 @ midnight)</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion board 3 posting (original and response)</strong> due by Monday, Nov 2 @ midnight</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Chapter 19; quiz 9 (due by Sunday, Nov 8 @ midnight)</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Chapter 24; quiz 10 (due by Sunday, Nov 15 @ midnight)</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion board 4 posting (original and response)</strong> due by Monday, Nov 16 @ midnight</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Chapter 20; quiz 11 (due by Sunday, Nov 22 @ midnight)</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Chapter 21 (for Thanksgiving Break)</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Chapter 22; quiz 12 (due by Sunday, Dec 6 @ midnight)</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion board 5 posting (original and response)</strong> due by Monday, Dec 7 @ midnight</td>
<td>Assignment 2 due by Tuesday, Dec 8 @ midnight</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Final Exam: Chapters 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24 (open from Wednesday, Dec 9 @ 8 am to Tuesday, Dec 15 @ midnight)</td>
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