



Faculty of Medicine
School of Medical Sciences

NEUR3211

Neuroscience Research Seminars

COURSE OUTLINE

TERM 3, 2019

CRICOS Provider Code 00098G

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Please read this manual/outline in conjunction with the following pages on the [School of Medical Sciences website](#):

- [Advice for Students](#)
- [Learning Resources](#)

(or see "STUDENTS" tab at medicallsciences.med.unsw.edu.au)

Course Convenors

Course

Convenor

Dr Chelsea Goulton
Cellular & Systems Physiology, Department of Physiology
School of Medical Sciences,
Wallace Wurth Building, Level 2, Room 261
E-mail: c.goulton@unsw.edu.au

Co-Convenor

A/Prof Pascal Carrive
Nerve, Brain & Behaviours, Department of Anatomy,
School of Medical Sciences,
Wallace Wurth Building, Level 3S, Room 328
E-mail: p.carrive@unsw.edu.au

Course Details

Unit of Credits: 6

Undergraduate course: Year 3, Term 3

Prerequisites: ANAT3411 or NEUR 3121 or another equivalent (please contact course coordinator)

Time: Tuesday 2pm to 5pm

Venue: Bioscience G07

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

The aim of NEUR3211 is to provide third year students a rewarding learning experience that will prepare them for SoMS and/or Neuroscience Honours year and beyond. Blended learning will be used to provide the students with an opportunity to gain insight into current research problems and to experience the workings of a research lab.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate, and communicate neuroscience research.
2. Demonstrate professional behaviour and an understanding of laboratory practice.
3. Demonstrate an ability to reflect on their research experience during their lab internship and its impact on their future career plans.
4. Understand and integrate key concepts related to the different fields of neuroscience.

Course Structure

The course is delivered weekly in a seminar format with single 3-hour sessions.

- These sessions commence with an informal introduction to a guest lecturer, who is an expert in their respective field of research (e.g., background, education, interests in neuroscience, etc). Guest lecturers are researchers within the School and its affiliated centres who will contribute with their special expertise to the topics proposed. They will give a one-hour lecture from which students will gain knowledge regarding key concepts in neuroscience.

- For the remainder of the session, students will individually present a research papers they will have chosen from a number of papers selected by the guest lecturer of the session. Question time will follow each presentation. There will be 2-4 presentations per session, depending on the number of students in the course. Participation during these sessions is essential (i.e., asking questions and participating in the discussion).
- **As this is an key component of the course, attendance at all of these sessions is compulsory.** Non-attendance will require appropriate documentation to be submitted to the course convenor. Unjustified absences may result in ineligibility to sit the final exam.

As a 'signature' component of the course, students will spend a minimum of 10 hours in one of the host laboratories within SoMS and affiliated research centres.

- Although students may not be allowed to be hands on during these laboratory sessions due to Health & Safety issues, they will familiarise themselves with how experiments related to the research theme(s) of the host laboratory are planned and conducted. It is likely that students will team up in groups of 2-3 for this component of the course.
- The outcome of these experiments will be presented by each group of students during a poster session in the last week of the course.

The course Moodle page will be used to provide up-to-date course information, such as the guest lecture schedule, and required resources.

Assessment Tasks

1. Oral presentation 20%

Each students will have one opportunity to present a research paper. These will be will be assessed by the lecturer of the day, the course coordinator and/or the course co-convenor and a subgroup of students using a marking rubric. Feedback from the marking rubric will be collated by the course convenor and distributed to the students in the week after their presentation. Additional feedback comments will be added.

This assessment task addresses course learning outcome 1.

2. Internship 30%

This assessment task has two main components: the internship and a reflective report.

- **Internship:** Students, in groups of 2-4, will spend ~10hrs with one host research group. The exact timing will be organised between the students and the host researchers, however it is expected this will be completed between Week 3 and Week 7. Feedback on the engagement with the host research group will be provided in the form of a rubric by the host supervisor.
- **Reflective Report:** At the completion of the internship, students will submit a reflective report on their personal experience and academic development during the internship. This report will be due by the end of Week 8. Feedback will be provided by the course convenor using a marking rubric.

This assessment task addresss course learning outcomes 2 and 3.

3. Poster 20%

In their internship groups, students will prepare a poster to summarise the project they observed in their host laboratory. These will be presented in Week 10. The posters will be assessed by the course convenor, lecturers, and students. Feedback will be given according to a marking rubric.

This assessment task addresses course learning outcomes 1 and 2.

4. Final theory exam 30%

The final 2-hour theory exam consists of two parts and assesses the content of all the course lectures.

- Part A: Consists of multiple-choice items to be answered on the generalised answer sheet.
- Part B: Consists of short answer questions.

Marks will be incorporated into a final grade and released by UNSW

This assessment task addresses course learning outcome 4.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage.¹ At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and **plagiarism** can be located at:

- The *Current Students* site <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>, and
- The *ELISE* training site <https://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise>

The *Conduct and Integrity Unit* provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>.

Special Consideration

If you fall ill prior to, or during, an assessment you may be eligible for Special Consideration. This is now managed centrally, so please see this link for details:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

The course convenors no longer have input into the special consideration process. If your request for consideration is granted, a supplemental assessment may be organised, or increased weighting may be applied to completed assessments. If you miss the final exam, a supplementary exam may be granted.

¹ International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.