**Journal Club in Neuroscience**

**PSB 4951; Section 001; CRN TBD**

**1 credit hour**

**Departments of Biological Sciences and Psychology, College of Science &**

**Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College**

**Florida Atlantic University**

**Semester:** Fall 2018

**Class meetings**: Wednesdays, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

**Location**: SR 283, Jupiter Campus

**Instructor**: Drs. Bolton and Dawson-Scully

Office: MC 19/RE, Room 109

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Phone: 516-799-8514

**Office Hours**: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 to 1:00 pm

**Course Description**: Students will learn to read, select, present and discuss recent, published articles on relevant topics in neuroscience in a journal club format.

**Prerequisite:** Permission of instructor

**Required Text**: There is no required text for this course. Handouts and selected articles will be posted on Canvas, and students will be expected to read all handouts and articles before the class period.

**Course Objectives**: The overall objective is for students to learn about exciting new research in neuroscience. Specifically, students will be expected to learn 1) how to select neuroscience articles that are suitable for presentation; 2) the techniques necessary to present the main points of an article in a clear and concise manner; and 3) how to participate in and lead a productive and critical discussion of an article.

**Note of Honors Distinction**: This course is a Max Planck Honors Program (MPHP) course. Max Planck Honors Program courses have been designed as part of a unique collaborative effort between the Schmidt College of Science, the Wilkes Honors College, and the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience. They offer its students an exclusive and enriching opportunity to develop neuoroscientific knowledge, formulate questions, and communicate their research via oral and written deliveries while learning and engaging with a community of cutting-edge research scholars and Nobel laureates.

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| **FAU MPHP Journal Club - Schedule for Fall 2018** | | |
| **Week** | **Topic** | **Reading** |
| Week 1 | Organizational class to discuss general concepts and expectations of a journal club | Handout |
| Week 2 | How to select a published article to present in a journal club format | Handout |
| Week 3 | How to present a published article in a journal club | Handout and video |
| Week 4 | How to lead a productive discussion of an article | Handout |
| Week 5 | Presentation and discussion of article | Selected article |
| Week 6 | Presentation and discussion of article | Selected article |
| Week 7 | Presentation and discussion of article | Selected article |
| Week 8 | Presentation and discussion of article | Selected article |
| Week 9 | Spring Break |  |
| Week 10 | Review of techniques; how to improve a presentation | Handout |
| Week 11 | Presentation and discussion of article | Selected article |
| Week 12 | Presentation and discussion of article | Selected article |
| Week 13 | Presentation and discussion of article | Selected article |
| Week 14 | Presentation and discussion of article  Future use of presentation techniques | Selected article |
| Week 15 | Last day of class – Review and discussion | Handout |

**Presentations:** All enrolled students will present two research articles during the semester. Each student will select a published, peer-reviewed article in the field of neuroscience. Students will obtain approval for the article from the instructor at least 10 days before his/her presentation date. Enrolled students are required to practice their presentation(s) with the instructor at least 3 days before their presentation date.

**Participation**: Students will be expected to have read the article before class and come prepared to discuss it in depth. Articles will be posted on Canvas.

**Grading Policies**: This course is graded as Satisfactory (credit given for the course) or Unsatisfactory (no credit given for the course).

**The FAU Catalogue**: ***Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading:*** *Certain courses are designated by the department offering them to be graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) basis. Unlike P/F grading, S/U grading is not an option for the student, but applies to all students in the course. In such courses, the grade of "S" indicates passing work and will be awarded credit for the course, but the course will not be included in the grade point average. The grade of "U" indicates failing work. The "U" is not awarded credit and is not included in the grade point average.*

**Grades**: A student’s course grade will be based on the student’s selection and presentation of published neuroscience articles, his/her ability to lead a productive discussion of the articles, and his/her participation in class discussions of articles presented by others.

**Extra Credit**: “Extra credit” assignments will not be given in this class as the primary objective of the course is to learn how to present and discuss published articles.

**Incompletes**: As per University policy, grades of Incomplete (“I”) are reserved for students who are passing a course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances. For this class, if a student is unable to complete the required coursework because of a serious illnesses, hospitalization, military service, or death of a family member, the student can request a grade of Incomplete. The awarding of an “I” (Incomplete) will be granted only in exceptional cases; the decision will be made either solely by the instructor or in consultation with the Associate Dean.

**Withdrawal from Class**: It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from this class, should that status be desired.

**Course Grade: Points**

Selection of appropriate article to present 100 points

Presentation of article 100 points

Leading the discussion of the article 100 points

Participation in class discussions 100 points

Total 400 points

**Course Grade:**

Satisfactory: 70 – 100%

Unsatisfactory: Below 70%

**Attendance**: Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in discussions. If a student misses a class, the student is responsible for all material covered during that class and any changes to the course schedule. If a student must miss a class, it is suggested that the student arrange to obtain class notes and announcements from another student.

**FAU Attendance Policy**: Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student’s final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

**Electronic Devices**: University policy states that “In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular telephones and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions.” In this class, any use of cell phones or other communication devices is not allowed during active class times. (A ringing or vibrating device is included in the definition of “use of an electronic device”, as is checking email or accessing the web.) If a student uses a communication device during active class time, the student will be required to leave for the remainder for the class period.

**Code of Academic Integrity**: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001: <https://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf>.

**Accommodations for Disabilities:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) — in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 131 (954-236-1222); or in Jupiter, SR 111F (561-799-8585) — and follow all SAS procedures.

**Religious Accommodation:** In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.

Students who wish to be excused from course work, class activities, or examinations must notify the instructor in advance of their intention to participate in religious observation and request an excused absence. The instructor will provide a reasonable opportunity to make up such excused absences.