

**BMD 430: Neuroscience  
Spring, 2006**

**Instructor:**

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Office Hours: Tue 1:00 – 3:00  
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Fri 2:00 – 3:00  
Or by appointment

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

Neurosciences is the study of how the nervous system works, from the cellular level to behavior. We will expand on the knowledge learned in physiology and anatomy and then go into detail on higher functions of the brain. The goal is for students to integrate information learned in other courses to understand how the brain works. Students will also learn critical thinking through on-line discussions, reading neurological case studies, and written assignments.

**Course Content:**

The course covers structure and function of neurons, neuroanatomy, sensory systems, motor systems, and higher brain functions.

**Prerequisites:**

BMD 311 (Anatomy) and BMD 335 (Physiology) are prerequisites for the course. It is also recommended that students have completed Pharmacology.

**Texts:**

The required texts for this course are:

Purves et. al.: Neuroscience, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition  
Sinauer Associates, Inc.

Sacks, Oliver: The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat  
Touchstone

**Web-enhanced Course:**

This is a web-enhanced course, meaning that there is an on-line component. Students will be required to participate in posted discussions. Students will also be able to access grade information and post questions on-line. Participation in the on-line component of the course is mandatory. To access the site, go to

<http://usaonline.southalabama.edu/>

**Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings and counts toward participation points.

**Supplemental Material:**

With your text came the Sylvius program. You may use this as a study aid.

This is a web-enhanced course. That means that you are required to access the official course web site and participate in course assignments. This includes discussions. To access the web site, follow the log on instructions at:

<http://usaonline.southalabama.edu/>

**Grading:**

There will be a total of 900 points available for the course as follows:

3 progress exams (100 pts. each)	300 pts.
Final Exam	200 pts.
Written Assignments	300 pts.
Participation	100 pts.

Grades will be based on the following: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F < 60%.

**Exams:**

There will be 3 progress exams during the semester and a final exam. Each progress exam will be 5-10% comprehensive, that is, will test on material learned throughout the semester. The final exam will be approximately 50% (100 points) new material and 50% (100 points) comprehensive.

All students are required to bring their student ID cards to each exam. The exams will include material covered in lecture, reading assignments, and on-line discussions. The progress exams will consist of multiple choice, True/False, fill-in, matching, and short answer questions. The final exam will be all multiple choice questions. Bring a number 2 pencil to all exams.

Any unofficial absence from an exam will result in a score of zero for that exam. Two unexcused absences from exams will result in a final grade of F for the course. An official absence requires calling the instructor prior to the exam followed by a detailed physician's note or other written documentation for absence recognized by the University. The student is responsible for making arrangements with the instructor for making up any missed exams due to an official absence as soon after the exam date as possible. Should taking a make-up exam be delayed, the student will be required to take a comprehensive essay exam. Any student with two excused absences will be required to take a comprehensive essay exam in lieu of the second missed exam.

Cheating will not be tolerated in class. The instructor reserves the right to change seating arrangements before or at any time during an exam. Any student caught cheating on a progress exam will receive either a zero on that particular exam or a final grade of F for the course. Cheating on the final will result in a final grade of F for the course. In addition, an official report of the incident will be filed with the chair of the department, and the incident will be added to the student's file. Students who observe others cheating are encouraged to report the incident to the instructor. Contrary to a common saying, cheaters do not just cheat themselves out of an education, they cheat against you.

**Written Assignments:**

BMD 430 is a Writing Course. A significant portion of the grade will be based on written assignments. The writing style will be technical (scientific), and correct grammar and spelling is expected. Drafts of each assignment will be required so that students will learn the art of scientific writing.

Each student will complete 3 short papers and 1 term paper. Details of the papers are provided in another handout.

Students may seek help with writing from the University Writing Center. The instructor may require some drafts to be reviewed at the Writing Center before turning in.

<http://www.southalabama.edu/writing/>

**Final Drop Date:**

The last day to withdraw from the course is April 7, 2006.

**Policy for Students Failing the Course:**

All students who have a cumulative percentage of less than 60% in the course must meet with the instructor weekly to discuss their progress.

**Policy on Cellular Phones and Beepers:**

Cellular phones are not permitted in the classroom at any time. If you must have a beeper, then the beeper must be kept in vibration mode. These devices are disruptive to the class and a student violating these policies will be asked to leave the classroom. On exam days, beepers are forbidden (you may leave a beeper with the instructor if necessary). Anybody with a cell phone or beeper during an exam will receive a 0 on that exam.

**Policies for Handicapped Students:**

Any student with a qualified handicap that requires accommodations should talk with the instructor after class so that appropriate arrangements can be made. A student must verify that he/she has a qualified handicap through the Special Student Services Office.

**Tentative:**

All information in the course schedule and syllabus are tentative and subject to change. The course schedule is a guideline, as lecture material may change based on the pace of the course. Exam dates will not change unless the entire class agrees to a change in date (unanimous decision of students attending class on day a change request has been submitted). Any exam date changes will be announced at least 1 week prior to the exam. Any changes in the course syllabus will be announced with at least 24 hours notice.