



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

Course Prefix, Number and Title: PSY 432, Fundamentals of Neuroscience

Course CRN # and Section 20402, Section 01

Semester Taught (including year): Spring 2019

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Course Time (if applicable): MWF 9-9:50 am

Building and Room Number (if applicable): Administration 303

Professor: Adriana M. Falco, Ph.D.

Office Location: Administration A115

Office Hours: MWF 11-12 pm

TR 2-3 pm

Email: amfalco@concord.edu

Phone: 304-384-5232

Office Fax: 304-384-8091

College/Department Website:

<http://www.concord.edu/sociasciences/>

Course Description/Rationale: This course will provide an introductory survey to core techniques used in the fields of neuroscience. The goal is not to examine any one technique in depth, but to give a basic understanding of a wide range of techniques.

Course Management System: Blackboard

Hardware/Software Needed: N/A

Text requirements: There is no published text in this field accessible to undergraduates to date. You will be expected to access journal articles (both those provided on Blackboard and some in the course of individual/group research).

Concord University Educational Goal(s): #1 Skills-Proficiency in interpreting data, integrating information, formulating ideas, thinking critically, and communicating with others, as demonstrated by the following competencies (outcomes)

National Standards (if applicable): N/A

Specific Learning Outcomes: #3 An ability to employ appropriate methods and technologies for conducting empirical and scholarly research, to interpret research findings, and to use insights gained from such research as a basis for informed decision making.

Course Requirements:

Exams: There will be three exams during the semester, two semester exams and a final exam. Each exam will be predominantly short answer or essay questions. Make-up exams will only be given if prior arrangements are made or in dire circumstances and if the instructor is contacted within 24 hours of the exam. Documentation of the reason for the missed exam may be required. The instructor reserves the right to substitute another exam of similar difficulty.

Group Presentations: Students will get in groups of 3-4 will be required to sign-up for a topic that is to be discussed in the syllabus and give a short presentation (roughly 10 minutes) that summarizes recent news on the topic. Part of the presentation should be the creation of discussion questions to engage the class in the topic as well as consideration of the future of the field. Due dates will be scattered throughout the given lectures in order to connect presentations to related material. Failure to show up on the assigned due date will result in a grade of “0” unless there is a documented excuse (documentation will be requested).

Literature Review: Each student will pick a specific neuroscience technique that they are interested in (though it does not need to be specially covered in class) and write an 8-10 page research paper that reviews 8-10 sources from the published literature (aka journal articles). Further directions will be forthcoming on Blackboard.

In addition, check your mycu.concord.edu email address often. Dr. Falco will use this method in contact you in the event of course changes or assignments in case of inclement weather.

Grading Policy and Scale, Make-up Policy, Late Work:

Exam 1 (100 points) + Exam 2 (100 points) + Final Exam (100 points) + Group Presentation (100 points) + Attendance/Participation in Group Presentations (25 points) + Literature Review (200 points) = **625 points**

Grading Scale:

A = 562 points and above

B = 500-561 points

C = 437-499 points

D = 375-436 points

F = below 375 points

Make-up Policy: Make-up exams will be permitted if Dr. Falco is contacted within 24 hours of missing the exam. Documentation may be required. There is no make-up for final exams.

Late Policy: Group presentations are expected to be given on the assigned date unless Dr. Falco is contacted prior to the presentation. Documentation may be required. For the literature review, 10% will be deducted for each day late (including weekends) until the instructor deems it inadmissible. **ALL PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA PAPER COPY!!!**

Course Timeline (Schedule of Assignments/Assessments/Presentations)

Class(es)	Topic
1/14	Intro/Syllabus
1/16-23	Structure and Function of the Nervous System
1/21	NO CLASSES-MLK DAY
1/25-2/1	Whole Brain Imaging
2/4-8	Animal Behavior
2/11-13	Stereotaxic and In vivo Techniques
2/15	Catch up/Review
2/18	Exam #1
2/20-22	Electrophysiology
2/25-27	Microscopy
3/1-8	Visualizing Neural Structure
3/11-15	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASSES
3/18-25	Visualizing and Manipulating Neural Function and Activity
3/27	Catch up/Review
3/29	Exam #2
4/1-5	Identifying Genes and Proteins
4/8-12	Molecular Cloning and Recombinant DNA
4/15-19	Gene Delivery Strategies
4/19	Literature Review Due
4/22-26	Transgenics/Manipulating Endogenous Genes
4/29-5/3	Biochemical Assays (if time)

Final Exam, Wednesday, May 8th, 9:00-11:15 am

Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the

Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:
<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

**Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (Including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or titleix@concord.edu. Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Use of Technology in Classroom: Laptops may be used in class in order to take notes ONLY. However, if this policy is deviated from, or if they become a distraction, the use of laptops will be revoked. Cellphones should never be used in class. Repeated or continued use of cell phones in class may result in you being asked to leave the classroom. The use of any laptop or cellphone during an exam will result in an automatic zero. Contact Dr. Falco with concerns about technology use.

Syllabus Disclaimer

"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."