

NEUROSCIENCE (GRAD)

The Neuroscience Curriculum at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is a broadly based interdisciplinary graduate training program in the neurosciences. With strong research funding and a long and successful training history, the curriculum ranks among the best programs in the country.

The program has 85 primary faculty members who can serve as dissertation advisors. Research opportunities in the curriculum are supported by the presence of an active neuroscience community at UNC–Chapel Hill. This community includes members of every basic science department in the School of Medicine, members of many clinical departments, as well as several departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. University research and clinical centers with a neuroscience component also contribute to the vibrant and active community that makes neurobiology a major intellectual focus at UNC–Chapel Hill.

The Neuroscience Curriculum enrolls an average of 45 students at different levels of training at any given time; typically, eight to twelve students are accepted each year depending on available funding. A portion of the students in the curriculum are supported during their first and/or second years by a long-standing training grant funded through NINDS, and in subsequent years by either their mentor's research grants or individual fellowships. The average time to graduation is 5.3 years.

Neuroscience is by its very nature an interdisciplinary endeavor, and at UNC–Chapel Hill the neuroscience curriculum provides a broadly structured training curriculum and research environment that spans the range from genetic studies of the nervous system through the complexities of human cognitive function.

Applicants are urged to complete their applications through BBSP (<http://bbsp.unc.edu/admissions/>) by early December.

Courses required for the Ph.D. degree in neuroscience include Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience (NBIO 722 Fall) and Systems and Translational Neuroscience (NBIO 723 Spring). Students are expected to enroll in **both** semesters of this course sequence.

The purpose of the course in Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience is to explore the experimental and theoretical basis for current concepts of nervous system function. The course runs as a series of three blocks in the fall semester and three blocks in the spring semester. This is NOT a survey course in neuroscience. The goals of the course are not so much to inform as to foster an understanding of how we accumulate our knowledge and hypotheses, not to provide a complete textbook picture of the functioning nervous system as we currently know it but to provide the intellectual tools and skills to evaluate current and future hypotheses, not so much to provide answers to questions as to attempt to define the unanswered questions.

Block 1 (NBIO 722 Fall) – Neuroscience Bootcamp: Introduction to Techniques Used in Studying the Nervous System/Electrical Signaling (~19 sessions) Because students taking the core course have diverse backgrounds, this block is divided into two sections.

Block 1a – Neuroscience Bootcamp: Introduction to Techniques Used in Studying the Nervous System (~9 sessions). The first block serves as an introduction to neuroscience as well as an overview of many of the techniques students will encounter while reading materials and papers for the rest of the course. Examples of topics covered include statistics and hypothesis testing, molecular biology and genetic engineering,

confocal microscopy, and functional anatomy of the rodent brain. Fall. Jensen, Itano, S. Cohen, Brenman.¹

Block 1b – Electrical Signaling (~10 sessions). This block introduces materials related to electrical excitability of neurons. Topics include ion channels, membrane potentials, generation and propagation of action potentials, dendritic excitability, and computational neuroscience as it relates to electrical signaling of neurons. Fall. Frohlich, Kato, Kasten, Manis.¹

Block 2 – Synaptic Mechanisms (~10 sessions). This block focuses on synaptic mechanisms of neurotransmitter release and termination of signaling, as well as intracellular signaling cascades that are regulated by synaptic transmission. Topics include electrophysiological and molecular analysis of neurotransmitter release, short-term plasticity in neurotransmitter release, synaptic plasticity, calcium signaling and regulation of intracellular signaling cascades, and gene expression. Fall. Philpot, Reissner¹, McElligott, Dudek.

Block 3 – Receptors (~10 sessions). This block focuses on neurotransmitter signaling through distinct receptor subclasses. Topics include G-protein coupled receptors and associated signaling, receptor binding theory, ionotropic and metabotropic glutamate and GABA receptors, receptor trafficking and localization. Fall. McElligott, Herman, Scherrer, Diering¹.

Block 4 – Development of the Nervous System (NBIO 723 Spring) (~11 sessions). This block focuses on molecular mechanisms of neuronal development and their relation to disease. Topics include neurogenesis, neural stem cells, molecular control of axonal guidance and neuronal migration, and cell and synaptic adhesions molecules. Spring. Shiao, Maness, Anton, Deshmukh, Gupton, Song¹, Stein.

Block 5 – Anatomy and Function of Sensory and Motor Systems (~17 sessions). This block focuses on the neural circuitry that comprises sensory and motor systems. Topics include organization and function of the retina and visual cortex, mechanosensation, genetically defined circuits for nociception, organization and function of somatosensory cortex, motor cortex, basal ganglia neural circuitry, and cerebellar organization and function. Spring. Zylka,¹ Manis, Fitzpatrick, Snider, Weiss, Cheney.

Block 6 – Neurobiology of Disease (~12 sessions). This block focuses on the neurobiological underpinnings of disease. For each topic the disease and its impact on society is introduced, and then detailed discussions of the molecular, genetic underpinnings and circuit and behavioral consequences of the disorder are presented. Topics include epilepsy, addiction, fear and anxiety circuitry, schizophrenia, autism, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease. This block also includes two classes devoted to human neuroimaging methods such as fMRI and DTI. Spring. Gilmore, Cohen¹, Ditcher, Stein, Zylka.

¹ denotes the head of the block

Communication of Scientific Results Neurobiology (NBIO 850)

The class teaches the principles for giving effective talks. The course also covers how to introduce speakers, prepare slides, and speak with the public about science. Spencer Smith currently directs the course, with additional faculty members participating in each class. The class is limited to Neuroscience Curriculum students. Students prepare talks, refine them in small groups (three to four students), and then present them in class. The in-class talk is videotaped, and these tapes are reviewed by the students in a session with their peers. After another

round of refining their talks with their small group, the students give their polished talks to the department in a formal setting. Writing is critiqued in class, with peers and guest faculty members all offering input. The videotaped reviews and peer critiques help tremendously to teach effective speaking and writing methods in NBIO 850 (a.k.a. PClass); thus, preparing students for the next stage in their scientific careers. Fall. Song, Phanstiel.

Neuroanalytics (NBIO 750)

The purpose of this course is to provide both practical and theoretical training in advanced data analysis approaches commonly used in neuroscience research. Over the past 10 years there has been a dramatic shift within the field from relatively simple data analysis approaches such as calculating means and standard errors of grouped data, to now performing complex analysis on higher dimensional datasets to uncover unappreciated features. The material in this course should be immediately useful to any student who is working with modern data collected in neuroscience, from sequencing, electrophysiology, imaging, biochemistry, and behavior. The concepts in the course will be taught through programming in python. While understanding mathematical concepts behind analysis is important, we will largely focus on the big picture and try to illustrate concepts by emphasizing graphical representations of how datasets are treated with these approaches. Throughout the course, we will utilize real-world neuroscience data from a variety of sub-disciplines as examples, and also focus on teaching the implications and limitations of the approaches we cover. At the end of the course, students should have a solid foundation of scientific computing, which will prepare them to independently conduct analysis of their own data or prepare them for more advanced courses. Spring even numbered years. Stein.

Neuroscience Seminar Series (NBIO 893)

Diverse but current topics in all aspects of neuroscience. Relates new techniques and current research of notables in the field of neuroscience. Content focuses on presentations by invited, non-UNC faculty, UNC faculty, and mini-series presentations from current neuroscience students. Topics vary from week to week. Students in the curriculum are expected to attend and participate in the neuroscience seminar series, and in particular year 2 and 3 students will be enrolled in NBIO 893 each semester, for which their attendance and participation in seminars and dissertation defenses is tracked and graded. Fall and spring. Brenman.

On the curriculum’s website, the courses menu lists descriptions of the core courses of the neuroscience curriculum; other selected offerings are shown under the electives menu. Additional elective courses in biochemistry, statistics, molecular biology, physiology, etc., are available to compensate for specific deficiencies or enhance training. It is the current philosophy of the curriculum faculty that students should receive a broad exposure to as many aspects of neuroscience as reasonable, from molecules and genetics through systems, behavior, and human diseases of the nervous system.

The following is a partial list of courses that neuroscience students may consider for their elective requirements.

Microscopy (NBIO 731)

Special Topics in Neuroscience: The Methods in Genetic Engineering (NBIO 890-002)

Special Topics in Neuroscience: Network Neuroscience (NBIO 890-003)

Developmental Neuroscience (NBIO 724)

Neural Information Processing (NBIO 729)

Introductory Statistics for Laboratory Scientists (BBSP 710)

Gene Brain Behavior Interactions in Neurodevelopmental Disorders: Towards an Integration of Perspectives on Disease Mechanisms (NBIO 800)

Clinical Syndromes and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (NBIO 801)

Neurocircuits and Behavior Journal Club (NBIO 733)

Biological Bases of Behavior I (PSYC 701)

Biological Bases of Behavior II (PSYC 702)

Translational Seminar in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience (NBIO 727)

Neuropharmacology of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (PHCO 728)

Principles of Statistics Infer (BIOS 600)

Research Ethics (GRAD 721)

Seminar in the Biological Foundations of Psychology (PSYC 708)

Statistical Methods in Psychology (PSYC 830)

Neuroscience, Ph.D.

The Neuroscience Curriculum (NBIO) stresses a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the brain. There are more than 80 faculty members in 12 departments and 5 specialized research centers participate in this interdisciplinary program. The Curriculum facilitates communication between these neuroscientists across departmental barriers in order to:

- Provide PhD training that incorporates a broad interdisciplinary background.
- Provided opportunities for thesis work in laboratories representing the full spectrum of modern neuroscience research.
- Promote the very latest technical approaches.
- Facilitate collaborative, interdisciplinary and translational research.

We also encourage increased communication and interactions among neuroscientists at UNC and neighboring institutions (Duke University, North Carolina State University, National Institute of Environmental Health Service (NIEHS) and North Carolina Central University) by sponsoring seminars, symposia, journal clubs, and conferences. Finally, NBIO strongly supports and fosters the exposure to a broad range of potential careers through the (Training Initiatives in Biomedical and Biological Sciences) TIBBS Program (<http://tibbs.unc.edu/>). TIBBS and other career development programs (<https://www.med.unc.edu/neuroscience/curriculum/career-development/>) offer information, seminars, workshops and individual guidance for all biomedical career options, including academic, government, pharmaceutical and scientific publishing.

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
NBIO 722	Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology	6
NBIO 723	Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology	6

NBIO 750	Neuroanalytics: Introduction to Big Data Science for Neuroscientists ¹	4
NBIO 850	Improving Presentation & Communication of Scientific Results	2
NBIO 893	Neuroscience Seminar Series ²	4
BBSP 710	Biostatistics for Laboratory Scientists ³	2
CBPH 895	Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) ⁴	1

Electives

Students must complete at least two elective courses. Select from the elective course options below or any 500+ level STEM field course - usually 2 or more units. Check with DGS. ⁵

Thesis/Substitute or Dissertation

NBIO 994	Doctoral Research and Dissertation ⁶	6
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Minimum Hours 25

¹ This is only required for students on the T32 and counts as one of their electives.

² This 1-credit course must be taken four times for a total credit of 4.

³ This course can be substituted with a higher level statistics or modeling course (advanced statistics/modeling/computer science substitute 700+; STOR/COMP 500+) - check with DGS when substituting.

⁴ Students should take CBPH 895 in the Fall of their fourth year.

⁵ Students on the T32 are required to take NBIO 750 which satisfies one of the elective requirements.

⁶ Students must take NBIO 994 twice for a minimum of 6 credit hours.

Code	Title	Hours
Neuroscience Elective Course Options		
CBPH 706	Communicating Scientific Results	1
NBIO 710	Advanced Light Microscopy	3
NBIO 727	Translational Seminar in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience	2
NBIO 729	Sensory Neural Information Processing and Representation	3
NBIO 750	Neuroanalytics: Introduction to Big Data Science for Neuroscientists	4
NBIO 751	Neurodevelopmental Basis of Brain Disorders	2
NBIO 800	Gene-Brain-Behavior Interactions in Neurodevelopmental Disorders: Perspectives on Disease Mechanisms	3
NBIO 801	Clinical Syndromes and Neurodevelopmental Disorders	3
NBIO 890	Special Topics in Neurobiology	2
PSYC 702	Brain & Behavior II	3
PSYC 708	Research Design and Statistics in Neuroscience	3
PSYC 830	Statistical Methods in Psychology I	4
PHCO 728	Neuropharmacology of Alcohol and Substance Use	3
PHCO 744	Topics on Stem Cells and Development	2
PHCO 750	Proteomics Methods and Applications	1
BIOS 600	Principles of Statistical Inference	3

Milestones

The following list of milestones (non-course degree requirements) must be completed; view this list of standard milestone definitions (<https://>

catalog.unc.edu/graduate/degree-programs/#milestonestext) for more information.

- Doctoral Committee
- Doctoral Oral Comprehensive Exam
- Doctoral Written Exam
- Prospectus Oral Exam
- Advanced to Candidacy
- Dissertation Defense
- Doctoral Dissertation Approved/Format Accepted
- Preliminary Written Exam
- Residence Credit
- Doctoral Exit Survey

Professors

Eva Anton, Neural Circuitry in the Cerebral Cortex

Aysenil Belger, Cortical Circuits Underlying Attention and Executive Function in the Brain

Joyce Besheer, Neurobiological Mechanisms Underlying Alcoholism and Addiction

Charlotte Boettiger, Neurobiological Mechanisms of Executive Function Irregularities in Addiction

Jay Brenman, AMP-Activated Protein Kinase (AMPK) Plays a Central Role in Energy Balance/Metabolism

Regina Carelli, Brain Reward Processes

Richard Cheney, Fundamental Cell Biology Unconventional Myosins, Filopodia, and Motility

Fulton Crews, Molecular Aspects of Neuronal Vitality and Alcohol

Mohanish Deshmukh, Mechanisms of Apoptosis Regulation in Neurons, Stem Cells, and Cancer Cells

Gabriel Dichter, Understanding and Improving Treatments for Neurodevelopmental and Neuropsychiatric Disorders

Serena Dudek (NIEHS), Connections in the Brain (Synapses) Change in Response to Activity

Flavio Frohlich, Cortical Networks Generate Physiological, Pathological Activity States

Rebecca Fry, Environmental Exposures Associated with Human Disease, Focusing on Genomic and Epigenomic Perturbations

John Gilmore, Human Brain Development, Immune Regulation of Neurodevelopment, Schizophrenia

Kelly Giovanello, Exploring the Cognitive and Neural Processes Mediating Memory in Young Adults

Elizabeta Gjonneska, Neuroepigenomics and Neurodegeneration

Stephanie Gupton, Coordination and Regulation of Cytoskeletal Dynamics and Membrane Trafficking

Klaus Hahn, Understand Cell Behaviors Mediated by Structural Dynamics

Shawn Hingtgen, Stem Cells, Treatment of Terminal Cancers, Brain Cancer

Clyde Hodge, Neurobehavioral Pharmacology and Pharmacogenomics of Addiction

Joseph Hopfinger, Cognitive Psychology and Perception

Patricia Jensen (NIEHS), Genetic and Environmental Perturbations During Development

Tom Kash, Synaptic Transmission and Plasticity

Kristen Lindquist, Nature of Emotion

Julieta Lischinsky, Neurobehavioral Circuits

Donald Lysle, Neuroimmunology, Learning Processes

Patricia Maness, Cell Adhesion and Signal Transduction in Developing Neurons

Paul Manis, Cellular Basis of Auditory Information Processing in Brainstem and Cortex

Rick Meeker, Neuroendocrine Regulation, Glutamate Receptors, Mechanisms of AIDS Dementia

Mark Peifer, Cell Adhesion, Signal Transduction, and Cytoskeletal Regulation in Development and Disease

Benjamin Philpot, Modification of the Cerebral Cortex by Sensory Experience

Joseph Piven, Pathogenesis of Autism, Genetic Basis, and Neuropsychological and Behavioral Phenotype

Donita Robinson, Chemistry and Physiology of the Nucleus Accumbens

Bryan Roth, GPCR Structure and Function, Drug Discovery

David Rubinow, Neurobehavioral Effects of Gonadal Steroids, Behavioral Responses to Changes in Steroid Signaling

Soma Sengupta, Neuro-Oncology and Brain Tumor Treatment

Yen-Yu Ian Shih, Developing and Applying Innovative MRI Technologies in Neurovascular Functions of the Brain

Juan Song, Adult Neurogenesis Function and Regulation

Martin Styner, Medical Imaging Analysis

Lisa Tarrantino, Genes That Increase Risk for Psychiatric Disorders

Todd Thiele, Neurobiology of Alcoholism

Jenny Ting, Use of Murine Models in the Regulation of Inflammatory Genes in Demyelination and Remyelination

Richard Weinberg, Organization of the Postsynaptic Density, Calcium Sources and Actin-Binding Proteins in Spines

Ellen Weiss, Regulation of G-Protein Signaling Pathways, Visual Signal Transduction

Sammuel M. Young, Jr., Gene Therapy and Auditory Processing

Mark Zylka, Molecules and Mechanisms for Pain

Associate Professors

Todd Cohen, Alzheimer's Disease, Frontotemporal Dementia, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Eran Dayan, Brain Connectivity, Functional Neuroimaging

Sylvia Fitting, Structural and Functional Consequences of Behavior and Neurocognition in Disease

Doug Fitzpatrick, Neuronal Bases of Sound Localization Performance

Adam Hantman, Neural Networks and Motor Control

Erin Heinzen, Neurodevelopment Disease Genetics

Melissa Herman, Inhibitory Microcircuitry Governing Network Function in Motivated Behaviors

Hiroyuki Kato, Neural Encoding of Complex Auditory Stimuli

Michael Love, Computational/Biostatistical Methods for Biomedical/Biological Research

Zoe Mcelligott, Mechanisms That Underlie Affective Disorders — Anxiety, Depression and Substance Abuse

Kathryn Reissner, Chronic Self-Administration of Cocaine, Neuronastrocyte Communication, Long-Term Drug Seeking

Kim Ritola, Optimization of Viral Tools (NeuroTools) for Brain Development and Disease

Gregory Scherrer, Pain and Opioids

Celia Shiau, Genetic, Cellular and Developmental Systems for Vertebrate Biology

Jason Stein, Genetic Effects on Multiple Aspects of the Human Brain

Hyejung Won, Genetic Risk Factors for Psychiatric Illnesses and Neurobiological Mechanisms

Assistant Professors

Katie Baldwin, Function and Development of Glial Cells

Alana Campbell, Cognitive Control and Emotional Processes

Jiakun Chen, Astrocyte Development and Function

Daniel Christoffel, Behavioral Impacts on Brain Function and Adaptation
Jessica Cohen, Functional Brain Networks Interaction When Confronted with Changing Cognitive Demands

Sarah Cohen, Lipid Trafficking

Leon Coleman, Alcohol Use Disorders and Pathologies

Graham Diering, Molecular Mechanisms of Sleep Function Impact on the Brain

Toshi Hige, Mechanisms of Behavioral Responses in Regards to Synaptic Plasticity, Neural Circuit and Behavior

Michelle Itano, Microscopy Optimization for Visualizing Living Networks

Shahzad S. Khan, Molecular Basis of Neurodegeneration

Robert G. Mealer, Protein Glycosylation and Psychiatric Disorders

Scott Parnell, Effects of Drug Abuse During Early Development and the Underlying Mechanisms of Birth Defects

Nicolas Pegard, Computational Optics, Imaging Systems, Optical Instrumentation, and Digital Interfaces

Jose Rodriguez-Romaguera, Neuronal Circuits that Drive Hyperarousal

Mark Shen, Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Ryan P. Vetreno, Neuroimmune and Epigenetic Mechanisms in Disease Models

Jessica Walsh, Molecular and Circuit Understanding of Behavior

Morika D. Williams, Molecular Mechanisms of Neurophysiological Pain Processing

Guorong Wu, Developing Computational Tools for Understanding Brain Pathology

Amol Yadav, Brain-Spine-Machine Interfaces

En Yang, Distributed Computations for Learning and Memory

Anthony Zannas, Epigenetic Changes and How They Contribute to Stress-Related Somatic and Behavioral Phenotypes

NBIO

Advanced Undergraduate and Graduate-level Courses

NBIO 411. Neurobiology Laboratory Apprenticeship. 1-21 Credits.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 412. Neurobiology Laboratory Apprenticeship. 1-21 Credits.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 450. Tutorial in Neurobiology. 3 Credits.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Graduate-level Courses

NBIO 701A. Brain & Behavior I. 3 Credits.

Graduate standing required. A survey of psychological and biological approaches to the study of sensory and perceptual information processing, with an emphasis on touch and pain.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: PSYC 701.

NBIO 702A. Brain & Behavior II. 3 Credits.

A survey of psychological and biological approaches to the study of basic learning and higher integrative processing.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: PSYC 702.

NBIO 703. Advanced Biological Psychology: Central Nervous System. 3 Credits.

Each fall one special topic will be covered in depth (e.g., neural bases of memory storage, homeostasis, and perception). Format includes lectures and seminar meetings with student presentations.

Rules & Requirements

Requisites: Prerequisite, PSYC 402.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: PSYC 703.

NBIO 704. Applications of Experimental Psychology to Health Research. 3 Credits.

This course provides a critical analysis of interdisciplinary research within experimental psychology, including such topics as psychopharmacology, psychoneuroimmunology, psychophysiology, and animal models of brain/behavior disorders.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: PSYC 704.

NBIO 705. Behavioral Pharmacology. 3 Credits.

Basic principles of pharmacology and behavior analysis are considered in relation to drugs that affect the central nervous system.

Rules & Requirements

Requisites: Prerequisite, PSYC 404; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: PSYC 705, PHCO 705.

NBIO 708. Research Design and Statistics in Neuroscience. 3 Credits.

Limited to graduate students in psychology, neuroscience, and neurobiology. Experimental design, hypothesis testing, power analyses, ANOVAs, regression, correlations. Hands on data analysis with you being able to use your own data sets. Analyses will be conducted with SPSS and Prism. Permission of the instructor.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: PSYC 708.

NBIO 710. Advanced Light Microscopy. 3 Credits.

An intensive and comprehensive hands-on laboratory-oriented course in light microscopy for researchers in biology, medicine, and materials science. This course will focus on advanced quantitative fluorescence microscopy techniques used for imaging a range of biological specimens, from whole organisms, to tissues, to cells, and to single molecules. This course emphasizes the quantitative issues that are critical to the proper interpretation of images obtained with light microscopes.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit. 6 total credits. 1 total completions.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: CBPH 710, PATH 710.

NBIO 721. Directed Studies in Oral Biology. 1 Credits.

Topics include extracellular matrices, immunology, inflammation, neurobiology, and pain management.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: OCBM 723.

NBIO 722. Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology. 6 Credits.

Introduces topics including brain cell biology, molecular biology applied to neurons, membrane potentials and imaging methods. The second block introduces such topics as resistance, capacitance, passive membranes, classes of ion channels, potassium and calcium channels, and action potential initiation. Final blocks, focus on neurotransmitter release and signaling through distinct receptor subclasses. Topics include G-protein coupled receptors and associated signaling, receptor binding/ligand theory, ionotropic and metabotropic glutamate and GABA receptors, receptor trafficking and localization. Permission of the department.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 722A. Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology: Introduction and Electrical Signaling. 2 Credits.

Permission of the department. This course explores the experimental and theoretical function of the nervous system. Typically, the first hour is fundamental material presentation and the second hour may be a presentation led by the students. Topics covered include: cellular diversity in the CNS, gross brain anatomy, human and rodent brain imaging, neuromolecular genetics, behavioral methods, membrane potentials/resistance/capacitance, ion channel structure, electrophysiology and propagation of electrical signals in neurons. Basic undergraduate biology, chemistry, physics and intro calculus is assumed.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: BIOC 722A, PHCO 722A.

NBIO 722B. Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology: Postsynaptic Mechanisms-Receptors. 2 Credits.

Permission of the department. Consideration of membrane receptor molecules activated by neurotransmitters in the nervous system with emphasis on ligand binding behavior and molecular and functional properties of different classes of receptors. Course meets for four weeks with six lecture hours per week.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: BIOC 722B, PHCO 722B.

NBIO 723. Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology. 6 Credits.

Block one covers neural stem cells, glial development, neural cell death and neurotrophin. The second block introduces the sensory pathways of vision, audition, taste, olfaction, pain, and touch, and the motor pathways of the spinal cord, basal ganglia, cerebellum, and motor cortex. Includes sensory information processing, motor execution, peripheral and central mechanisms of pain. Final block covers CNS imaging, regeneration, and such diseases as Alzheimer's, ALS, Parkinson's, epilepsy, addiction, autism, and schizophrenia. Permission of the department required.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 724. Developmental Neurobiology. 2 Credits.

A survey of nervous system development emphasizing detailed analysis of selected research topics such as neuronal induction, neural crest development, neuronal differentiation, synapse formation, neurotrophic factors, glial development, and the effects of experience.

Rules & Requirements

Requisites: Prerequisite, NBIO 722; Permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 725. Experimental Neurophysiology. 3 Credits.

Permission of the instructor. Six or more laboratory hours a week.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 727. Translational Seminar in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience. 2 Credits.

Introduces new neuroimaging techniques and their application to the study of neural correlates of cognitive and behavioral impairments in brain disorders. Reviews the theories and research methodologies that investigate how brain functions support and give rise to mental operations such as attention, memory, emotions, social cognition in the healthy brain.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 728. Diseases of the Nervous System. 2 Credits.

Explores the basic neurobiology and the clinical aspects of a range of diseases of the nervous system, including ALS, Alzheimer's, autism, schizophrenia, multiple sclerosis, deafness, epilepsy, pain, brain tumors, stroke, Parkinson's, and other neurodegenerative diseases.

Rules & Requirements

Requisites: Prerequisites, NBIO 201, or 722 and 223.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 729. Sensory Neural Information Processing and Representation. 3 Credits.

Additional required preparation, one year of calculus, familiarity with MATLAB or Python, or permission of the instructor. A discussion/reading seminar covering the fundamentals of nervous system information processing and integration, with examples from sensory systems.

Rules & Requirements

Requisites: Prerequisites, NBIO 722 and 733.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 731. Microscopy: Principles & Applications. 2 Credits.

This course aims to provide the knowledge one may need to understand the reach of microscopy imaging techniques, to be able to choose the right imaging modality, label the sample, carry out the experiment, analyze data, troubleshoot any pitfalls that may occur, and put together a custom optical setup.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 732. Biological Concepts. 1.5 Credits.

Overview of structures and biological determinants of conditions and diseases of the oral cavity. Both growth and development and pathophysiology will be introduced in the context of three areas of oral biology: biology of extracellular matrices, host-pathogens interactions, and orofacial neurobiology.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: OCBM 732, PHCO 747.

NBIO 733. Neurocircuits and Behavior Journal Club. 1 Credits.

This is journal club course will meet once per week for 90 minutes to discuss new research papers focused on delineating how neurocircuits function to orchestrate various behavioral states. Papers for discussion will be chosen by the instructor and students, and students will rotate in leading discussions.

Rules & Requirements

Requisites: Prerequisites, NBIO 722 and 723.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 735. Seminar in Chemical Neurobiology. 2 Credits.

Required preparation, two semesters of biochemistry.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 750. Neuroanalytics: Introduction to Big Data Science for Neuroscientists. 4 Credits.

The purpose of this course is to provide both practical and theoretical training in advanced data analysis approaches commonly used in neuroscience research. Making biological insights into complex neuroscience data requires familiarity with computer programming, distributed computing, visualization, and statistics. This course aims to provide an introduction to these analysis techniques to make the aspiring neuroscientist comfortable with data science.

Rules & Requirements

Requisites: Prerequisites, NBIO 722 and 723.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 751. Neurodevelopmental Basis of Brain Disorders. 2 Credits.

The basic principles guiding in the formation and maintenance of human nervous system and how do distinct genetic/ epigenetic disruptions during development cause different types of human neurodevelopmental disorders. The intent of this course is to present latest advances in developmental neuroscience in the context of this theme. Topics covered IMII include neural patterning, neurogenesis, neural cell fate specification, neuronal migration, axon/dendritic growth and connectivity.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 800. Gene-Brain-Behavior Interactions in Neurodevelopmental Disorders: Perspectives on Disease Mechanisms. 3 Credits.

This seminar examines the topics of genetics, neuroanatomy, physiology, and behavioral development to provide a broad-based and integrated background to understand the etiology and potential mechanism underlying neurodevelopmental disorders.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 801. Clinical Syndromes and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. 3 Credits.

This seminar will review the epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of neurodevelopmental syndromes and disorders. Topics will range from single gene (e.g. fragile X syndrome and tuberous sclerosis) to complex genetic (e.g., autism, schizophrenia), to environmental disorders with varied phenotypes, pathogenetic mechanisms, and treatments.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 850. Improving Presentation & Communication of Scientific Results. 2 Credits.

Learning modern day techniques and approaches to convey scientific results effectively as a public speaker. Teaching how to implement the key aspects of effective presentation of scientific findings in public settings. Understanding the key components of an effective public talk including scientific content, body language, and voice. Learning how to captivate the target audience and yet still convey data driven scientific findings.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: CBPH 705.

NBIO 857. Seminar in Comparative Animal Behavior. 1-2 Credits.

Permission of the instructor. Advanced seminar in comparative animal behavior. May be repeated for credit.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: BIOL 857.

NBIO 858. Seminar in Comparative Physiology. 1-2 Credits.

Advanced seminar in comparative physiology.

Rules & Requirements

Requisites: Prerequisite, BIOL 451; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.

Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics.

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: BIOL 858.

NBIO 890. Special Topics in Neurobiology. 1-5 Credits.

Special topics in neurobiology. Content will vary from semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 892. Special Topics in Physiology. 1-5 Credits.

Permission of the instructor. Individually arranged in-depth programs of selected topics such as membrane function, transport physiology, renal physiology, etc.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 893. Neuroscience Seminar Series. 1 Credits.

Diverse but current topics in all aspects of neuroscience. Relates new techniques and current research of notables in the field of neuroscience. Content focuses on presentations by invited, non-UNC faculty, UNC faculty and mini-series presentations from current Neuroscience students. Topics vary from week to week.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

NBIO 951. Research in Neurobiology. 3-12 Credits.

Permission of the department. Research in various aspects of neurobiology. Six to 24 hours a week.

Rules & Requirements

Grading Status: Letter grade.

Same as: BIOL 951, PHCO 951.

NBIO 993. Master's Research and Thesis. 3 Credits.

Course is designed to certify that the students have achieved a high level of knowledge competence in clinical and basic neurosciences, without the rigorous research experience required of a Ph.D.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit.

NBIO 994. Doctoral Research and Dissertation. 3 Credits.**Rules & Requirements**

Repeat Rules: May be repeated for credit.

Contact Information

Neuroscience

Visit Program Website (<https://www.med.unc.edu/neuroscience/curriculum/>)

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