Introduction to Neuroscience  
PS/NC 200 - Winter 2004

**Class Time:** M,W,F 12:05-1:00, Pgil G52  
**Discussion:** T, 12:05-1:00 Pgil G52  
**Final Exam:** F, April 15, 10:30 AM

**Instructor:** J. Roxanne Prichard  
**Office:** Pettengill 365  
**Phone:** 786-6426  
**Email:** jprichar@bates.edu  
**Office Hours:** Th, 2-4 or by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:** Brad Oriel, boriel@bates.edu  
**Writing Assistant:** Keith Hengen, khengen@bates.edu

**Course Overview**  
This course will introduce you to the fascinating field of neuroscience. Over the semester, we will study one of the greatest mysteries of the universe: how a 3 pound ball of proteins and fats creates all of our emotions, thoughts, movements, and dreams. In analyzing the structure and function of the nervous system, we will pay particular attention to how sensory information is encoded and interpreted, and how our nervous system is designed to respond to a changing external world. This course will also emphasize experimental design, data interpretation, and science writing.

**Grade**  
Your grade will be determined by your performance on three exams, two formal writing and peer review assignments, written and verbal reflections in one journal club meeting, and your participation and attendance.

**60% Exams**  
33% Exam 1  
33% Exam 2  
33% Exam 3  
33% Comprehensive Final Exam  
(You can drop your lowest grade.)

**25% Formal Writing & Peer Review Assignments**  
40% CPR Assignment 1: Summary  
60% CPR Assignment 2: Argument

**10% Journal Club**  
75% Written response  
25% Verbal discussion

**5% Participation & Attendance**
**Requirements**

*Exams-* Exams will be composed of one or more of the following: essay, short answer, identification, and multiple choice questions. Each test will cover the material learned in class, as well as in the textbook. You will only be given a makeup exam if you have a Dean’s excuse. You may drop (or elect not to take) one of the four exams.

*Formal Writing and Peer Review Assignments-* Calibrated Peer Review ™ (CPR) is a National Science Foundation-funded online pedagogical tool designed to strengthen students’ writing and peer review skills. There will be 2 CPR assignments of increasing sophistication. The first assignment will require that you *summarize* a research or review article. The second assignment calls for you to compose an *argument* based on your evaluation of one or more research papers. These assignments will be discussed more thoroughly during class.

Your grade for each CPR assignment will be determined by your text quality (60 points), and the accuracy of your reviews of 3 ‘calibration essays’ (15 points), 3 of your anonymous peers’ essays (15 points), and of your own essay (10 points), for a total of 100 points. If you have completed the assignment on time, you may opt to revise your original essay for *extra credit*. The maximum amount of extra credit allowed for this revision is 40% of the difference between your grade and a perfect score [i.e., (100 - your score) * .4]. Each extra credit revision is due to me via email within 7 days of the assignment closure time.

*NB:* The instructor has the authority to override any component of the CPR grade.

All resources needed for the writing assignments will be linked to the CPR website: [http://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/](http://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/) and will be online for a limited amount of time. (See class calendar for details.)

*Journal Club-* All students are required to attend 1 of 6 journal club meetings over the course of the semester. Students will read a short article, prepare a 2-page reading report that addresses specific assigned questions (due at the beginning of journal club), and participate in a small group discussion (no more than 9 people per group). The articles for journal club are intended to be highly topical, interesting, and fun. Students will be assigned to a particular journal club during the first two weeks of class. You will not be able to make up a missed journal club meeting unless you have a Dean’s excuse.

*Participation & Attendance-* Your active involvement in this class is essential to both your individual learning, and the learning of your peers. Your participation grade reflects my assessment of your attendance, participation, and the quality of your CPR peer review comments. This grade also allows me to account for any improvements you’ve made over the course of the semester.

*Grading-* The letter grade for your performance will be assigned according to this table.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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**Assigned Readings**


It is assumed that you will have come to lecture having both read the assigned chapters and having identified points for clarification.

**Additional articles** for CPR & journal clubs will be assigned throughout the semester and posted on WebCT.

I expect that you will spend a minimum of 7 hours a week outside of class time studying the material covered in class.

**How to do well in this course**

- Read the chapters before coming to class
- Attempt the review questions at the end of each chapter
- Bring lecture notes to class
- Come to class with questions about the reading
- Take advantage of extra credit opportunities
- Use resources—Writing Workshop, Teaching & Writing Assistants, Office Hours

**Resources**

Writing Workshop: 53 Campus Avenue, 786-6159
Neuroscience Review: [http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html](http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html)
Teaching Assistant: Brad Oriel, briel@bates.edu
Writing Assistant: Keith Hengen, khengen@bates.edu

**Policies**

**Communication**- Please check your Bates email account regularly. I will be using the class list serve for announcements, assignment clarifications, and more. I will also be using WebCT to link to assigned readings and useful resources, and to post lecture notes. Notes will be posted on WebCT by 9 AM, the morning of the lecture.

**Feedback**- Feel free to contact me (or the teaching assistants) at any time with questions or concerns about the course content, presentation, and/or your performance in the course.

**Attendance**- Class attendance is essential for success in this course and part of your overall grade. You will be responsible for knowing material presented during lectures that is not covered in the textbook.

**Lost Work**- There is no excuse for lost, crashed, or otherwise destroyed files at Bates. Back up your work on the Paris (or other) server.
Disability statement- If you have a physical, motor, sensory, medical or learning disability that inhibits learning under usual circumstances, please inform me and the Dean of Students, so that we can work together to make any necessary adjustments. If you require extra time on examinations, I will need to see a note from the Dean of Students at least two days in advance.

Late Work- Deadlines are firm. You will not be able to log onto the CPR server after the posted deadline. Late work will not be accepted unless you have a Dean's excuse, or gain approval from me for an extension at least 24 hours prior to the deadline.

Plagiarism- All writing assignments will be screened for evidence of plagiarism. Plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable, and infractions will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. For a tutorial of academic plagiarism, refer to the CBB plagiarism resource site: [http://leeds.bates.edu/cbb/](http://leeds.bates.edu/cbb/).