

NROC34 Neuroethology

Course Syllabus Fall 2013

NROC34 lectures Friday 1000h-1200h in SW143

Course Personnel	Office Hours	Email
Instructor: Karen Williams, PhD	SW 563B Thursday 1530-1630 & Friday 1330-1530h	kd.williams@utoronto.ca
TA: Sen Sivalingham	TBA	

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

In Neuroethology you will explore the neural basis of behaviour and how the scientific process is used to discover it. Assignments and lectures provide opportunities for:

- Observing and analysing behaviour
- Developing your skills in the critical reading of neurobiology primary literature
- Developing your analytical skills to be able to propose experiments

Assignment learning objectives:

- In the two video assignments you will observe, describe and analyse behaviour.
- The poster assignment will encourage critical reading and analysis of the methods used in neuroethology
- The exams (midterm and final) will test your ability to understand the material, apply the knowledge and propose new experiments
- The critical review of an article will assess your ability to understand the primary literature and methods used in neuroethology

Text: Exploring Animal Behavior Readings from American Scientist 6th Ed. Sherman, P.W. & Alcock, J. 2013. Sinauer Associates Inc. Publishers. ISBN 978-1-60535195-7

Lecture Schedule

Date:	Lecture theme	Lecture topic
06-Sep-13	Sensing a target in space	To bee or not to be
13-Sep-13		Fruit fly foraging
20-Sep-13	Escape from a threat	Bats and Moths
27-Sep-13		Bird song systems
04-Oct-13	Sensory cues	Voles (and moles)
11-Oct-13		Cats and mice: chemosensation
18-Oct-13		READING WEEK
25-Oct-13		Fish and groups
01-Nov-13		Midterm
08-Nov-13	Navigating around the globe	Butterflies, Turtles and migration
15-Nov-13		Birds and the bees: rhythms
22-Nov-13		Rhythms and Review
29-Nov-13		Review Neuroethology

Please note that every attempt will be made to follow this lecture schedule but the most up-to-date schedule will be the one posted on Blackboard Portal.

Grade	Assignments	Due Date
5%	Video assignment I	in Class September 27
5%	Video assignment II	in Class October 11
8%	Poster assignment	15-Nov-13
2%	Posts to Blackboard discussion & Blog Journal pages	ongoing
15%	Critical review	02-Dec-13
25%	Midterm test	01-Nov-13
40%	Final Exam	During Exam period

Assessment information

Turnitin: "Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site".

Students are required to upload their assignments to Turnitin. If you would like to opt out of Turnitin you are required to submit a request to the instructor in writing by October 1st and be prepared to submit draft copies of your poster and critical review assignments.

Late Penalties

Video assignments: notify the instructor within 48h if you miss a video assignment. Please note that it is NOT possible to make-up a missed video assignment, and if you miss both video assignments you will not have a grade, i.e. you will receive a zero.

Poster assignment and Critical Review: Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day (24 hours) of lateness to a maximum of 5 days of lateness.

Posts to Blackboard Discussion or Blog Journal pages: late posts are not counted for a grade

Missed tests/exams: There will be ONE make-up midterm exam for those with a valid U of T medical certificate http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf If you missed the Final Exam please see Registrar's office.

Procedures and Policies

Course information

Please see Blackboard Portal for all queries and check Blackboard frequently for updated information. NROC34 will not use the intranet.

Attendance, Lectures and Notes

In this third year course attendance and participation in lectures is expected. Lectures will be webcast (available only for 2 weeks after the lecture). Lecture notes will be available 12 to 24 hours prior to the lecture.

Email

Contact information for instructor kd.williams@utoronto.ca and TA are available on Blackboard under "Contacts" or by clicking Send Email. Please use your U of T email address for all communication emails from other addresses may not receive a response.

Re-Evaluation requests

A written request for re-evaluation must accompany the assignment or test. All requests must be addressed to the instructor (email requests permitted) and must be received by December 19th 2013. Please be advised that the entire assignment or test will be evaluated and your grade may go up, down or may not change.