Syllabus

### NROSCI 1000: Introduction to Neuroscience

Fall 2015 (term 2161)

**Course Web Site:** <http://courseweb.pitt.edu>

*Log in, then click on link to this course under “My courses”.*

**LECTURES**: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00-5:15 p.m., L9 Clapp Hall

**REVIEW:**  *(optional)* Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., 169 Crawford Hall

**Professor:** Dr. Linda Rinaman

Dept. of Neuroscience

*office:* A416B Langley Hall (inside A416A)

*phone:* 412-624-6994

*Email:* rinaman@pitt.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays after class (5:20 pm) and M-F by appointment

**Recommended Textbook:** Neuroscienceed.by Purves, Augustine, Fitzpatrick, Hall, LaMantia, and White

Fifth Edition, 2012, Sinauer

ISBN: 978-0-87893-695-3 (hard copy)

**or** ISBN: 978-0-87893-587-1 (e-book available via www.coursesmart.com)

***Note:*** *Two textbook copies are available on reserve in Langley Library, for in-library use only.*

**Also Required:** iClicker (for in-class participation, including pop quizzes)

**Graduate TA:** Zoe LaPalombara

*Email:*  [zfl1@pitt.edu](mailto:mtr23@pitt.edu)

**Undergraduate TAs:** Michael DeMarco, Alexis McCathern, and Ankitha Madde

*Email*: MAD230@pitt.edu; AGM42@pitt.edu, and ANM211@pitt.edu

Exams, Extra Credit, and Grading Scale

1. There will be four exams: **three non-cumulative exams** plus a **cumulative** **Final Exam** (see schedule, next page).
2. Your lowest exam grade (out of four exams) will be dropped. Your three highest exam grades will be equally weighted and averaged to determine your final course grade. *So this means you can skip (drop) the Final Exam if you’re pleased with your first three exam grades.*
3. Exam questions will be multiple choice and true/false. Exams will deal only with material covered in class lectures. Most (but not all) of this material also is covered in assigned textbook readings (see next page). *You will not be tested on any textbook material that is not covered in lecture, even if that non-covered material is included in the assigned readings.*
4. **Make-up exams will NOT be given.** Missed exams, including the cumulative Final, will earn a grade of “0”, which can be dropped as your lowest grade [see (2), above]. Students with acceptable exam conflicts should discuss the conflict with me **at least 2 weeks before** the exam date. An earlier exam may then be arranged, depending on the circumstances. Acceptable conflicts include University-related competitions, research conferences, scheduled surgery (yours), etc. Family and social events, vacations, helping a friend move, etc. won’t qualify. If you miss an exam because you are sick or got stuck in traffic or missed your bus or couldn’t find parking or your alarm didn’t go off, etc., that can be the exam grade of 0 that you “drop”. If that happens, you will need to take the cumulative Final Exam.
5. **EXTRA CREDIT:** Extra credit “pop quizzes” will be administered via "iClicker" in class, without prior notice. Points earned on pop quizzes can only help improve your final course grade. All extra credit points earned during the semester will be summed and added onto your lowest non-dropped exam grade at the end of the course to thereby improve your final average. There will be no make-up extra credit, even in the case of a documented and acceptable conflict that prevents your class attendance, or if you forget your "iClicker", or it's not working properly.
6. **WEEKLY REVIEW SESSIONS and OFFICE HOURS:** An *optional* TA-led review session will be held each week (Friday, 9:30-10:30 am, 169 Crawford Hall). Dr. Rinaman will hold after-class office hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (5:20 pm, office inside A416A Langley), and M-F by appointment. For extra help, graduate and undergraduate TAs also are available to meet by appointment, just ask them (email is probably the best way to arrange).
7. **GRADING SCALE – for final course grades**

# Percentage Letter Grade

98.0 - 100 A+

93.0 - 97.9 A

90.0 - 92.9 A-

88.0 - 89.9 B+

83.0 - 87.9 B

80.0 - 82.9 B-

#### Percentage Letter Grade

78.0 - 79.9 C+

73.0 - 77.9 C

70.0 - 72.9 C-

68.0 - 69.9 D+

63.0 - 67.9 D

60.0 – 62.9 D-

59.9 or less F

**NOTE:** When computing final grades at the end of the course, I will automatically add 0.5 percentage points to everyone’s final average to resolve borderline cases; this is a gift to you. I won’t add more than that, even if your final post-gift average is then 0.01 percentage points away from that next higher letter grade, even if I like you a lot, even if you worked really hard and you might lose your scholarship if you don’t get that next higher grade. I must be strictly objective and impartial, although I will commiserate with you.

**8. Important** –Please visit the websites below for information regarding:

University of Pittsburgh Academic Integrity Policy: <http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html>

Students with Disabilities: <http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drswelcome>