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Email this form and syllabus to UGPC@fan.edu one week before the UGPC meeting.

FAUchangecourseGR, created Summer 2017

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Memorandum

To: University Graduate Program Committee

From: Kathleen Guthrie, PhD, Associate Professor of Biomedical Science and Assistant Director, FAU Graduate Neuroscience Training Program

Subject: Change course credit options

Date: October 18, 2019

This memo requests approval to change the course number and credit options for the graduate seminar course entitled "Neuroscience Seminar" (currently BSC 6509, 1-3 credits, 1 hour every other week, Fall and Spring semesters, graded S/U). The Independent Study BSC 6905 class code was used as a place holder and the Registrar's Office has provided the class code PSB 6920 as a possible permanent replacement. The seminar class enrolls graduate students from multiple departments and different PhD degree tracks, and the PSB prefix (for Psychobiology) is acceptable to Biological Sciences, Psychology, and Complex Systems and Brain Sciences, as documented in their graduate course listings. These departments participate in the Graduate Neuroscience Training Program under the FAU Brain Institute, and enrollment in the seminar every fall and spring semester is a requirement for students in the GNTP PhD program.

We also wish to change the credits earned for regular seminar attendance to the options of either 0 or 1 credit. This is requested to allow students to earn 1 credit for seminar participation, or alternatively zero credit, which still requires seminar attendance for a grade of S or U. Over a 4-5 year period, required seminar credits could accrue significantly in terms of their contribution to the credits earned each semester, and to the total needed to complete the PhD degree. This may reduce the ability of students to select other credit-earning course options during their graduate education. Additionally, graduate student fees are calculated on a per-credit basis, adding to student costs. This flexibility in credit options will allow PhD students to continue to actively participate in research seminars presented by top neuroscientists from around the country, without adding additional credits to their degree track each semester. There are other seminar classes at FAU that can be taken for 0 credit, including the required Graduate Seminar in Engineering in the COE (CGSS937, 0 credit).

Syllabus

Course Title: Neuroscience Seminar

Course code: PSB 6920 (proposed prefix, currently listed as BSC 6905)

Credits: 0-1 credit

Locations: Boca Raton COM room 126 and Jupiter MC17 Rm 119

(Video-conferenced to FAU Davie and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute)

Time: Fall and Spring Semesters, Tuesdays at 4:00-5:00 PM unless otherwise noted

Instructors: Randy Blakely, Ph.D. and Kathleen Guthrie, Ph.D.

Office Hours — By appointment:

kguthrie@health.fau.edu, Bldg 71, room 208

Written communications to my email are the most effective way of reaching me

Phone: (561) 297-0457

Course description and objectives:

- 1. A key objective of this course is to provide graduate students an opportunity to experience an important mechanism for information exchange between neuroscientists, while learning about a broad range of current research topics and techniques from leaders in the field. Published journal articles authored by the guest speakers will be provided to students before the seminar dates, so they may familiarize themselves with the research topic and background. Attending students are encouraged to actively participate and ask questions. Speakers enjoy interaction and discussion with their audiences.
- Seminars also provide graduate students a more informal and less intimidating environment to regularly get together and interact with faculty, other graduate students and other members of the FAU research community.
- 3. Invited speakers may be from an institution that a graduate student is considering for future postdoctoral training or other career opportunities. This provides an excellent opportunity to get accurate and current information, and establish contacts. We reserve time for student lunches with the speakers on the scheduled seminar day (free). If you would like to join a student lunch with a speaker, let us know in advance and we will work to get you on the lunch schedule for an opportunity to meet with a speaker.

EMAIL will be used to send seminar notices, papers authored by speakers, changes in the schedule and other items of interest. Notices will also be posted in CAVAS.

Course Requirements:

This course is graded with only a Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) grade, which has no impact on GPA. Students are expected to attend all of seminar presentations (8 per semester), with the exception of two permitted absences, for a Satisfactory grade. A third absence requires prior approval. Attendance sheets will be located in each seminar room and VC site. Be sure to sign in. Occasionally there are "special seminars" that bring in speakers on other dates. Attendance at these is optional, but they can be used to substitute for a missed, regularly scheduled seminar to meet the attendance requirements. Be sure to sign in at these special seminars.

*For students who are required to give a research presentation to complete requirements for the Neuroscience certificate in CSBS, Psychology or other program, let us know and we will schedule one of our open meeting slots as a student seminar session.

Seminar Notices

A Seminar schedule will be posted on Canvas at the beginning of the semester, and sent by email to each student. However, changes are frequently required due to unexpected complications with the visiting scientist's travel plans. Emails will be sent out prior to each seminar, containing attached flyers with information on upcoming seminars (speaker, seminar title, room location and time), and publications authored by the speakers. Check the flyers for seminar room numbers, as these may change occasionally.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office of Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses- Boca Raton, Davie, and Jupiter, however, disability services are available for students on all campuses.

Honor Code

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001 Code of Academic Integrity.pdf

Religious Accommodations:

Students who wish to be excused from attending seminars must notify the instructor in advance of their intention to participate in religious observation and request an excused absence.