

NROC34 Neuroethology

Course Syllabus Fall 2014

NROC34 lectures Fridays 1000h-1200h SW128

Course Personnel	Office Hours	Email
Instructor: Karen Williams, PhD	SW 563B 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

Text: Exploring Animal Behavior Readings from American Scientist 6th Ed. Sherman, P.W. & Alcock, J. 2013. Sinauer Associates Inc. Publishers. ISBN 978-0-87893-815-5.

Lecture schedule

Date:	Lecture theme	Lecture topic	6ed readings
05-Sep-14	Sensing a target in space	To bee or not to be	Text p.261-267 & 69-
12-Sep-14		Fruit fly foraging	
19-Sep-14	Escape from a threat	Bats and Moths	Text p.295
26-Sep-14		Bird song systems	Text p. 312-319
03-Oct-14	Sensory cues	Voles (and moles)	Text p. 107-117 & 176-182
10-Oct-14		Cats and mice: chemosensation	Text p. 249-258
17-Oct-14		READING WEEK	p.19-27 for poster
24-Oct-14		Fish and groups	Text p. 38-45; 148-156
31-Oct-14		Midterm	
07-Nov-14	Navigating around the globe	Butterflies, Turtles and migration	
14-Nov-14		Birds and the bees: rhythms	Text p.337-345
21-Nov-14		Poster Presentation party	
28-Nov-14		Review Neuroethology	Text p.46-55
01-Dec-14		Critical Review due!	

Assignments and Tests

Grade	Assignments	Due Date
5%	Video assignment I	in Class September 26
5%	Video assignment II	in Class October 10
8%	Poster assignment	14-Nov-14
3%	Posts to Blackboard discussion & Blog Journal pages	Ongoing
2%	Oral Presentation	21-Nov-14
25%	Midterm test	31-Oct-14
12%	Critical Review	1-Dec-14
40%	Final Exam	During Exam period

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 oral presentation and critical review of an article will assess your ability to understand the primary literature and methods used in neuroethology

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: videos are shown in class usually at the beginning of class. Please 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 (paper and Turnitin copy) 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

Oral Presentation: it is not possible to make up a missed oral presentation.

Missed tests/exams: Please notify the instructor / TA within 48 hours of a missed test or assignment.

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 18th 2014. Please be advised that the entire assignment or test will be evaluated and your grade may go up, down or may not change.

Academic Integrity

Please see UTSC resource links on Academic integrity:

<http://www.adfg.utoronto.ca/processes/acdiscipline/AcademicDisciplineResourcesLinks.htm>

Please see also UTSC student policy on "code of behaviour in academic matters" by following this link:

http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~stuaff/student_policies.html

Access Ability, Religious accommodation and other policies

Please follow the link below for UTSC student services related to Access Ability:

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~ability/>

Please see the link below for policies on religious accommodation and student conduct:

http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~stuaff/student_policies.html