NEUR*6100: Seminar in Neuroscience

General Information

Course Title: NEUR*6100 Seminar in Neuroscience

Course Description:
This course will provide a monthly point of contact for all students in the Collaborative Neuroscience Program. Through exposure to a broad scope of research in the field of Neuroscience, students will develop the skills to critically evaluate others' research, as well as their own. They will develop more effective communication skills. Faculty and graduate students in the Collaborative Neuroscience Specialization will meet and discuss research interests and progress. The seminar will also feature invited speakers from other Universities/Institutions and from within the University of Guelph. The list of speakers is presented below.

Credit Weight: 0.0

Academic Department (or campus): Psychology/Collaborative Neuroscience Specialization

Campus: Main campus

Semester Offering: Fall 2024 and Winter 2025. NEUR*6100 is a required course for all graduate students registered in the Collaborative Neuroscience Specialization. This is a two-semester course. Students will have to register twice, once in the Fall and once in the Winter. They will receive INP at the end of the Fall term and a SAT grade at the end of the Winter term.

Class Schedule and Location:
Wednesdays from 3:30-5:20 pm, **ECLA (Enhanced Clinical Learning Addition) 3708** or Zoom (see schedule of events). We have been assigned the ECLA room again this year, but the capacity of this room is below the enrolment of the course. As such, I will likely try to book a larger room closer to the time of our first seminar in October; please be sure to read my emails closely to stay up to date. A Zoom option will be offered for every seminar, whether the speaker is attending in-person or not.

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Boyer Winters
Instructor Email: bwinters@uoguelph.ca
Office location and office hours: MCKN 3005; meeting by arrangement.

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

- Increased familiarity with ongoing neuroscience research, both within the UG community and the broader field.
- Proficiency with discussing research from a broad cross-section of neuroscience areas.

- Proficiency with taking information away from others' research talks, including how to ask useful post-talk questions.
- Reflections on the scientific growth of the student by being exposed to multiple fields and speaker experiences.

Seminars:
Attendance is mandatory for all students and all scheduled meetings (this course fulfills a breadth requirement of the Collaborative Neuroscience Specialization). Class time is used to host invited speakers, including those from other universities and outside of academia, and to hold discussions around these talks. There may also be occasional course meetings. Meeting dates and speaker information are listed on CourseLink and may change throughout the year.

All Collaborative Neuroscience Specialization students should also plan to attend the day long Neuroscience Day, which is held every spring; it is a day of poster sessions and talks. All NEUR*6100 students are strongly encouraged to submit either a poster or talk for Neuroscience Day. This gives you a chance to present your work to local neuroscientists (and add a CV line).

Seminar Schedule (3:30-5:20 one Wednesday per month in term time):

Oct 2, 2024 – Dr. Qian Lin, Assistant Professor, Dept of Cell and Systems Biology, University of Toronto (*format: on campus*)
"Understanding the neural mechanism of decision making at the whole brain, single neuron scale"

Nov 6, 2024 – Dr. Nuria Daviu Abant, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Sciences, University of Guelph (*format: on campus*)
"TBA"; likely topic: Neurobiology of Stress

Jan 8, 2025 – Dr. Guy Higgins, Global Chief Scientific Officer, Transpharmation, (*format: on campus)*
"TBA"; likely topic: Discussion of a career spanning academia and industry

Feb 5, 2025 – Dr. Brandon Walters, Assistant Professor, Biology, University of Toronto, Mississauga (*format: on campus*)
"TBA"; likely topic: Molecular mechanisms of memory formation and storage

Mar 5, 2025 – Dr. Ian Tobias, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Sciences, University of Guelph (*format: on campus*)
"Long-range control of gene expression in neural development"

April 2, 2025 – Dr. Olga Burenkova, Research Associate II, Integrative Biology, University of Guelph (*format: on campus*)
"TBA"; likely topic: Effects of early life experience on brain development and behaviour

Course Assignments and Tests:
Students are expected to attend each of the monthly presentations. By the Friday following each seminar presentation all students are required to provide a Reflection Paper on the seminar (0.5-1 page) **highlighting what new knowledge and insights have been gained**. These should be delivered to the Dropbox created specifically for each talk on the CourseLink site. Students must complete Reflections for a minimum of 80% of the seminars for the year. These assignments are meant to reflect your own thoughts and learning, so any use of generative AI is prohibited. Students receive a SAT or UNSAT grade based on the successful completion of these Reflections.

Course Resources

CourseLink:
Feedback and news will be posted to CourseLink.

Course Policies

Grading Policies

Students must compete Reflections for a minimum of 80% of the seminars to receive the SAT for the year.

University Policies

Disclaimer
Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website and circulated by email.

Illness
I will never require verification of illness. Just let me know if you can't be there.

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1483.shtml

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and

students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Graduate Calendar:
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1770.shtml

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or see the website: Student Accessibility Services Website

Course Evaluation Information

Please refer to the Course and Instructor Evaluation Website

Drop date

The last date to drop two-semester courses, without academic penalty, is ***the last day of regular classes***. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar:
https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/schedule-dates/winter-semester/