

MCELLBI W61: Brain, Mind, and Behavior 2020

Three (3) semester credits

Course Description

This course deals with the structure and function of the human nervous system, with an emphasis on how brain physiology and chemistry are related to human behavior. This is a comprehensive introduction to the exciting field of contemporary neuroscience for students of ALL backgrounds and interests.

Prerequisites

There are no prior course requirements.

Instructor Information, Contact, Office Hours, & Communication

Course Instructor

Dr. David Presti

249 Life Sciences Addition (LSA)

Phone and voicemail: 510-643-2111

Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs)

While the instructor will interact with the whole class and will oversee all activities and grading, as well as being available to resolve any issues that may arise, the GSIs will be your main point of contact. Your GSIs are responsible for assisting you directly with your questions about assignments and course requirements, as outlined in the Assignments and Calendar. The GSIs will also facilitate ongoing discussion and interaction with you on major topics in each module.

- TBD
- TBD

Office Hours

The course instructor and GSIs will offer both in person and virtual office hours, when students can communicate real time (synchronously) using Zoom. While these chats are optional (no points awarded for participation) they can be valuable for discussion, answering questions, and reviewing for exams. Check the course Announcements for office hour times.

Course Mail

Make sure to check the Course Mail for messages from the instructor. You can access course email within the Learning Management System by clicking on the Inbox link or choose to have your course mail forwarded to your personal email account or your cell phone.

Course Materials and Technical Requirements

Required Materials

- *Foundational Concepts in Neuroscience: A Brain-Mind Odyssey* by David Presti (2016).

It is absolutely essential that you have the textbook to take this course. The module quizzes, midterm exam, and final exam are based on your readings in the book.

Technical Requirements

This course is built on a Learning Management system (LMS) called Canvas and you will need to meet these [computer specifications to participate within this online platform](#).

Optional

Canvas allows you to record audio or video files of yourself and upload them in the course. Although doing so is not required for any of the activities, using these features will enhance your engagement in the course. If you would like to use these features, you will need to have a webcam and a microphone installed on your computer.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulties please alert one of the GSIs immediately. However, understand that neither the GSIs, nor the professor can assist you with technical problems. You must call or email tech support and make sure you resolve any issues immediately.

In your course, click on the "Help" button on the bottom left of the global navigation menu. Be sure to document (save emails and transaction numbers) for all interactions with tech support.

Extensions and late submissions will not be accepted due to "technical difficulties."

Learning Activities

You are expected to fully participate in all the course activities described here. This course is designed to provide the student with a survey of the mind, brain, and behavior. A variety of learning activities are designed to accommodate diverse learning styles and build a community of learners. Learning activities for this course include the following:

1. Read the assigned textbook chapters
2. Review the study materials and practice quizzes
3. Read web-based announcements and postings assign during the course
4. Compose and post assigned responses to homework and discussions
5. Complete the module quizzes, midterm exam, and final exam
6. Complete writing assignments

Sections

For grading purposes, each of you has been assigned to one of the course GSIs and placed within his/her section. Your particular GSI will grade all of your work, as well as that of your section-mates, and engage with you in the course discussions. You can see whose section you've been placed in by exploring the "Section" column within the "People" page or by examining your discussion group's title, which includes your GSI's name.

Modules

A module is a grouping of topics related to one area of study, typically with readings, lectures and various kinds of assignments. For an at-a-glance view of due dates and projects, refer to the course Calendar and/or the Course Summary on the Syllabus page in bCourses.

Reading Assignments and Study Materials

As you read the assigned chapters, check for associated study materials under the chapter tabs on the Module pages. The module's key concepts and study materials will provide an overview to assist you in focusing your study for assignments and exams.

Practice Quizzes

Each chapter's study materials include a practice quiz. The questions are similar to those in the module quiz and the midterm and final exams. When you complete the quiz, you will be able to check your results, but the practice quizzes are not graded.

Homework Assignments

Students will be required to complete four writing assignments based on the reading assignments and weekly study materials. Detailed instructions for the homework will be provided on module pages and within those components.

Homework and discussion assignments turned in late but within 24 hours of the due date/time will receive HALF credit. Assignments turned in more than 24 hours after the due date/time will receive ZERO points, but will still be credited as having been turned in.

The homework assignments are worth 12% of the final grade. However, you must turn in all four of the homework assignments and participate in all of the weekly discussion forums in order to receive better than a "C-" grade in the class, or to receive a P grade in the class if you are taking the class P/NP.

Quizzes

Modules 1-5 include a quiz that must be completed and submitted within 24 hours of the completion of the module. Refer to the Calendar for all due dates. You may take the quiz only once and have a set period of time to complete each quiz. (See each quiz for details.) If you miss a quiz, you will be allotted 0 for that quiz, and there is no make-up quiz.

Module Quizzes are to be taken **WITHOUT** reference to book, notes, or other study materials (i.e., **CLOSED** book and notes), and **NOT** in collaboration with other students. Please keep the campus Honor Code in mind: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others."

If you have a Letter of Accommodation at UC Berkeley, confirm with your GSI that it has been received and accommodations have been made. When you start a quiz or exam in bCourses, check the timer when you open it to confirm you have the correct time accommodation. This applies to all quizzes and exams in the course.

Discussion Forums

Weekly Discussion Forums

Each module contains a group discussion in which we ask you to write reflectively and critically about the discussion topic. Your posts and responses are considered your class participation and represent a unique opportunity for you to exchange views with your group-mates, share experiences and resources, and ensure your understanding of the course material.

Discussion groups have been pre-assigned and include other members of your GSI section. When you navigate to a discussion forum, you will automatically be taken to your group's instance of that discussion and to your group's space within the course. When finished with the discussion, you will need to navigate from your group space back to the main course space in order to continue participating in other aspects of the course.

While the Discussion Forum assignments are asynchronous (not real time), you will be expected to make an initial posting by 11:59 pm Thursday (PT) and to respond to at least one other student's postings by 11:59 pm Sunday (PT); continued participation throughout the

remainder of the week is highly encouraged. See the instructions within each discussion forum for further guidelines. Late postings will receive reduced credit. Details above under "Homework Assignments."

Neuroscience Sharing and Discussion Forum

Please use this forum to share interesting questions and material you encounter with one another, the instructor, and the GSIs. The instructor/GSIs will monitor this forum, but you should also feel free to post answers to help other students. This helps to create a general FAQ so that all students in the course may benefit from the exchange.

Student Lounge

The Student Lounge is a place to connect with one another for study groups and other activities.

Report Errors in the Textbook and Website

Please look through the posts on this discussion, and if you spot additional errors, post them here.

Midterm Exam

You will complete a midterm exam in Module 3. The exam covers the content in Chapters 1-10 and consists of multiple-choice questions. The exam has a time limit, and you must take it within the prescribed 24-hour window. The midterm exam will be administered on the course website from **Thursday, June 11, 8 a.m., to Friday, June 12, 8 a.m. (PT)**. The exam is to be taken WITHOUT reference to book, notes, or other computer/Internet resources (closed book, no notes, no web browsing), and it cannot be taken collaboratively with other students. The learning management system keeps detailed records of logins and submissions. Consider reviewing the Academic Integrity information in the Orientation Module for this online class, and keep the Campus Honor Code in mind: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others."

Final Exam

Due to the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic all final exams for Summer Sessions 2020 will be taken online. In this

situation, we must trust one another to uphold UC Berkeley's Code of Conduct, and act with academic integrity.

The exam will be available on **Wednesday, July 1, 2020**. Review the Final Exam Info on the left navigation menu in bCourses for more details.

The exam will be comprehensive and will cover course material from Modules 1-6 (Chapters 1-22 of the textbook).

Note the following requirements:

There will be no make-up exams. **You must pass the final examination in order to receive a C- or better letter grade in the class, or a P grade, if you are taking the class P/NP.** That is, passing the final exam is necessary in order to receive a satisfactory passing grade for the class. If you miss taking the final or try to take it in a manner for which you have not received permission, you will fail this class automatically.

Grading and Course Policies

Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Table 1: Final Grade Percentages

Category	Percentage of Grade
Homework Assignments	12% (3% x 4 assignments)
Discussion Assignments	15% (3% x 5 assignments)
Module Quizzes	10% (2% x 5 quizzes)
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	43%

It will not be possible to receive better than a C- letter grade in the class without turning in all four of the written homework assignments and participating in the discussion forums. If you are taking the course pass/no pass, you must turn in all of the homework and participate in the discussion forums in order to

pass the course. Even if you turn them in late (and therefore receive no points), you still need to turn in all assignments in order to get better than a C- or a NP.

As stated above, you must also pass the final examination in order to receive a C- or better letter grade in the class, or a P grade, if you are taking the class P/NP.

The point ranges for the various letter grades will be determined at the end of the semester after all exams and other graded materials have been evaluated. In past years, it has generally been the case that 90% and above is the A-range and 80% and above is the B-range. The C, D, and F ranges are more variable and will depend on the range of scores that occur among the students this session.

Your letter grade in the course will be determined according to absolute standards of performance, which hopefully relate to your acquisition of knowledge and understanding of the material. You will not be competing against fellow students in the sense that we do not force letter grades to conform to a predetermined distribution. If everyone does extremely well, everyone could receive an "A" grade. If everyone does poorly (highly unlikely), then everyone could get a low grade. Rather than devoting energy to worrying about where grade cut-offs are, if you are truly interested in this subject and in getting the most from this class, we urge you to take the material seriously from the beginning, do the readings, and really make an effort to learn the material. Your efforts will be rewarded with deep knowledge and understanding of some truly fascinating topics. Good grades will be a side effect.

It is important to note that not all components are graded online and included in the online course grade book. Because of this, the online course grade book will not display your overall course grade at any given time or your final grade. It should simply be used to assess your performance on the components that are included within it: the discussions, quizzes, written assignments, and midterm exam. Your final letter grade will be mailed to you by the registrar's office.

Course Policies

Promptness

Homework assignments and discussion forum postings all have specific final due dates and times. You will not receive full credit if assignments

are submitted after the indicated due date. (Details above under "Homework Assignments.")

Further, each online activity must be submitted through the course website by the due date. Email (or fax or mail) submission will not be accepted. Students who wait until the final hours prior to a submission deadline risk having problems with their ISP, hardware, software, or various other site access difficulties. Therefore, it is advisable to submit assignments and tests through the course website early. Students should get into the habit of checking the course website several times each week, and submitting and posting early.

Honor Code

The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." The expectation is that you will adhere to this code.

Collaboration and Independence

Reviewing lecture and reading materials and studying for exams can be enjoyable and enriching things to do with fellow students. This is recommended. However, unless otherwise instructed, homework assignments and the online exam are to be completed independently and materials submitted as homework should be the result of one's own independent work.

Cheating

A good lifetime strategy is always to act in such a way that no one would ever imagine that you would even consider cheating. Anyone caught cheating on a quiz or exam in this course will receive a failing grade in the course and will also be reported to the University Center for Student Conduct. Exams are to be completed without the assistance of other people, and without reference to texts, notes, and other materials. The expectation is that you will be honest in the taking of exams.

Plagiarism

To copy text or ideas from another source without appropriate reference is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for your

assignment and usually further disciplinary action. For additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, explore the resources linked below:

[UC Berkeley Library Citation Page, Plagiarism Section](#)

[GSI Guide for Preventing Plagiarism](#)

Academic Integrity and Ethics

Cheating on exams and plagiarism are two common examples of dishonest, unethical behavior. Honesty and integrity are of great importance in all facets of life. They help to build a sense of self-confidence, and are key to building trust within relationships, whether personal or professional. There is no tolerance for dishonesty in the academic world, for it undermines what we are dedicated to doing - furthering knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

Incomplete Course Grade

Students who have substantially completed the course but for serious extenuating circumstances, are unable to complete the final exam, may request an Incomplete grade. This request must be submitted in writing or by email to the GSI and course instructor. You must provide verifiable documentation for the seriousness of the extenuating circumstances. According to the policy of the college, Incomplete grades must be made up within the first three weeks of the next semester.

Students with Disabilities

If you require course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability, contact [UC Berkeley's Disabled Students' Program \(DSP\)](#). Notify the instructor and GSI through course email of the accommodations you would like to use.

UC Berkeley is committed to providing robust educational experiences for all learners. With this goal in mind, we have activated the ALLY tool for this course. You will now be able to download content in a format that best fits your learning preference. PDF, HTML, EPUB, and MP3 are now available for most content items. For more information visit the alternative formats link or watch the video entitled, "[Ally First Steps Guide](#)."

End of Course Evaluation

Please take a few minutes to participate in our Course Evaluation to share your opinions about this course. The evaluation does not request any personal information, and your responses will remain strictly confidential. A link to the evaluation will be made available via bCourses.

To access the course evaluation via bCourses, choose **Course Evaluations** from the left-hand navigation menu.