

NEUR 3831 Fall 2026 Syllabus

Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory, Section B, 1hr lab course

Co- or Pre-Requisite Course: NEUR 3003

CRN: 94290

Instructor Information

Instructor: Katharine McCann, PhD

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General Course Information

Description

The companion laboratory for NEUR 3003 (Neuroscience of Behavior). This course stresses understanding behavioral and cognitive neuroscientific concepts through a combination of lab experiments and behavioral observations.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Demonstrate** conceptual knowledge of and proficiency using key techniques and technologies within behavioral and cognitive neuroscience
- Critically **read** and **evaluate** the literature to determine scientific questions based upon the current scientific knowledge
- **Generate** scientific hypothesis and **design** experiments to test using the appropriate experimental technique, methods, or tool
- **Collect, analyze, and interpret** quantitative data in light of the scientific hypothesis and current literature
- **Communicate** neuroscientific knowledge with clarity and precision in both oral and written formats
- **Establish** effective teamwork and collaborative practices

Required course materials

There is no textbook for this course. This syllabus is required reading. Unit readings will be posted on Canvas and should be read before class so that you are prepared to contribute to the class discussion.

Computer and Internet: A computer and a stable internet connection are required to be able to access course materials and to submit assignments. Please contact me if you need any assistance in accessing the course.

Communication: This class will communicate via Canvas and through your Georgia Tech email address. Please check your GT email address regularly so you do not miss any updates and announcements. **If not emailing directly via Canvas, please indicate your**

course and section number in the subject line. I will do my best to reply to your emails within 24 hours during the school week. **To stay organized, I will not accept assignments via email.** I would like for you to have a support system for this course, so please communicate with your classmates and with me early and often.

Canvas and Student Technology Support: This course utilizes Canvas, a virtual learning management system. Canvas is compatible with all browsers and works with your phone. You may consider downloading the app for your phone to receive notifications and alerts for your courses. Verify your email settings are set to forward to your GT email address, and make sure you are receiving emails from the system.

GT Canvas site: <https://canvas.gatech.edu/>

GT Canvas app for students: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-is-the-Canvas-Student-app/ta-p/31>

Need Microsoft Office? Get access to the FREE cloud-based version of Office 365 by visiting the GT Office 365 website and using your GT email address.

GT Office 365 Website: <http://portal.office.com>

Need tech help? Contact the Office of Instructional Technology with any technology questions or connect in the Virtual Help Desk.

Office of Instructional Technology website: <https://oit.gatech.edu/>

Contact information: <https://oit.gatech.edu/contact-us>

Grading Policy

	Points
Participation and in-class engagement <i>Individual activity; daily attendance and participation in all aspects of the course</i>	100
Reflections 2 x 25pts each <i>Individual activity; personal reflections at the beginning and end of the semester</i>	50
Methodology 3 x 50pts each <i>Individual activity; check points on your knowledge from the current unit</i>	150
Lab Reports 3 x 50pts each <i>Group activity with individual contributions; written reports due at the end of each unit</i>	150
Unit Presentations 3 x 50pts each <i>Group activity with individual contributions; oral presentations at the end of each unit</i>	150
Behavior Observation Project 250pts <i>Individual activity; scaffolded semester-long project exploring animal behavior with sections due throughout the semester</i>	250
Prep work and protocols <i>Individual activity; pre-lab readings, protocols, and trainings</i>	150
	1000

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following point scale:

- A 900 – 1000 points
- B 800 – 899 points
- C 700 – 799 points
- D 600 – 699 points
- F 0 – 599 points

Extra Credit

If an extra credit opportunity arises, I will inform you. **To be fair to all students, I cannot offer extra credit to an individual student that has not been offered to the entire class.**

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

This laboratory course is designed for hands-on experiments and in-class learning, and therefore active engagement is critical for the success of the course. You are expected to come to class each day prepared to participate and engage with your peers. In-class participation and engagement are calculated into your final grade (see grade table above).

Make-up Policy

Late assignments will lose 10% per day off the final grade and will not be accepted after one week past the due date. For extensive illnesses and emergencies, contact the Office of the Vice President and Dean of Students who can inform and work with your instructors. Make-up assessments will be given only with advance notice and/or official documentation from the Institute or the Dean of Students.

<https://studentlife.gatech.edu/request-assistance>

Course Engagement

Student engagement in coursework and class activities is essential for learning and student success. Meaningful engagement in a course goes beyond logging into Canvas and may include engaging with learning materials, participating in learning activities, completing assessments, and interacting with classmates and/or the instructor. You are expected to be actively engaged in the course activities explained in this syllabus, just as the instructor promises to be actively engaged, as well.

Policy on use of generative AI for class work

AI-based assistance, such as ChatGPT or Copilot, is considered unauthorized collaboration in this course when used in lieu of writing and interpreting in your own words. In your assignments, **avoid anything that was not written directly by you**. Including anything you did not write in your assignment without proper citation will be treated as an **academic misconduct** case and will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity. Use any interaction with an AI assistant as a *tool* to promote your learning experience, with your completed submitted product reflecting your interpretation and understanding of the material. <https://www.cc.gatech.edu/news/new-policies-navigate-role-ai-assistants-cs-courses>

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Your instructors take academic integrity very seriously. Cheating, in any form, interferes with your success. As science is collaborative by nature, you are absolutely permitted to discuss ideas, results, and work with other people. However, **all work you submit must**

be your own and in your own words. If you turn in another's work as your own, **including AI-generated material**, you should expect a failing grade for the course. Work on individual assignments should be done independently. If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am here to help!

GT Academic Honor Code

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#). Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify me as soon as possible so we can resolve the issue. Students with disabilities should also contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), whose purpose is to collaborate with students, faculty, and staff to create a campus environment that ensures all students have an equal opportunity to access the Georgia Tech community. ODS can be reached at 404.894.2563, dsinfo@gatech.edu, or <https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu>. Please contact me ahead of time to discuss any issues related to disabilities. I am happy to work with you.

Office of Disability Services:
Smithgall Student Services Building
Email: dsinfo@gatech.edu
Phone: 404-894-2563
Website: <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>

Academic and Personal Support

APA Style resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Center for Academic Success: <http://success.gatech.edu>

- 1-to-1 tutoring: <https://tutoring.gatech.edu/tutoring/>

- Peer-Led Undergraduate Study (PLUS): <https://tutoring.gatech.edu/plus-sessions/>
- Academic coaching: <https://advising.gatech.edu/academic-coaching>
- Communication Center: <http://www.communicationcenter.gatech.edu>
 - Individualized help with writing and multimedia projects

OMED: <http://www.omed.gatech.edu>

Student Mental Health and Wellbeing

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being.

<https://studentlife.gatech.edu/services/mental-health-well-being>

[National Suicide Prevention Hotline](#) at 988.

The Office of the Dean of Students: <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/about/dean-students>

Smithgall Student Services Building 2nd floor

Phone: 404-894-2565; after-hours: 404-894-2500

You also may request assistance at: <https://mentalhealth.gatech.edu/>

Center for Mental Health Care and Resources: <https://mentalhealth.gatech.edu/>

Smithgall Student Services Building 2nd floor

Phone: 404-894-2575

- Services include short-term individual counseling, group counseling, couples counseling, testing and assessment, referral services, and crisis intervention.
- Their website also includes links to state and national resources.
- *Students in crisis may walk in during business hours (8am-5pm, Monday through Friday) or **contact the counselor on call after hours at 404-894-2575 or GT PD at 404-894-2500.***

Students' Temporary Assistance and Resources (STAR):

<https://star.studentlife.gatech.edu/>

- Can assist with interview clothing, food, and housing needs

Stamps Health Services: <https://health.gatech.edu>

740 Ferst Dr NW, Atlanta, GA 30332

Phone: 404-894-1420

- Primary care, pharmacy, women's health, psychiatry, immunization and allergy, health promotion, and nutrition

Belonging and Student Support: <https://belonging.gatech.edu/studentsupport>

Student Engagement and Well-being: <https://students.gatech.edu/>

Veteran's Resource Center: <http://veterans.gatech.edu/>

Georgia Tech Police: 404-894-2500