

Fall 2026 – NEUR 8801 Syllabus

Neuroscience Colloquium

I. COURSE OVERVIEW

Lecture (1 credits): M 11:00 – 11:50 am (in-person course delivery)

Section: A

Course Description:

This course provides doctoral students with exposure to current research through attendance at departmental or university-sponsored seminars. Students will attend a set number of approved seminars over the semester, engage with diverse scientific topics and speakers, and complete brief written reflections or participate in occasional group discussions. The course is designed to foster critical listening skills, broaden scientific awareness beyond the student's specific research area, and support professional development through engagement with the academic research community. **PreReq:** None

Course Goals / Learning Outcomes –

Together in this course we will learn to:

- Attend and critically engage with a variety of research seminars within and beyond student's immediate area of study.
- Explore emerging research areas and interdisciplinary perspectives to broaden student understanding of the scientific landscape.
- Identify, analyze, and reflect on effective science communication strategies used by seminar speakers.

Textbook/Materials:

All course assignments, readings, and grades will be posted/submitted via Canvas. **You will need to bring some sort of electronic device with access to the internet, paper, and a pencil to class each day.**

II. COURSE GRADING

CATEGORY	ASSIGNMENT	POINTS
Seminar Reflections (50%)	Brief Assignments/ Reflections	50 pts
Engagement (50%)	Attend agreed upon group seminars & subsequent discussions	50 pts

Grading Scale:

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

A	90 – 100 %	90.0+ pts
B	80 – 89.99 %	80.0 – 89.9 pts
C	70 – 79.99 %	70.0 – 79.9 pts
D	60 – 69.99 %	60.0 – 69.9 pts
F	0 – 59.99 %	< 60.0 pts

III. COURSE EXPECTATIONS & GUIDELINES

Academic Honesty/Integrity

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic honor code: <https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu>) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. After you have received your accommodation letter you are welcome to email me to set up a private appointment to discuss how I can best implement these accommodations within the course.

Statement About Acceptable Student Conduct

To support mutual respect and understanding between students and faculty, Georgia Tech faculty and students collectively adopted a list of student-faculty expectations. See the full Student-Faculty Expectations agreement here: <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/>

Extensions & Late Assignments:

All assignments are due at **11:59 p.m. on Canvas** and are considered late at 12:00 a.m. Assignments will have a 10% late penalty applied for each 24 hours that it is late. In general, all due dates are final without prior instructor approval. However, I'm happy to be flexible and work with you if there are extenuating circumstances.

Attendance & Additional criteria for successful completion of the course

For this particular course, we WILL NOT need to meet in class most weeks. Other than group discussion days (see below) the only days you must attend class are the first-class day and the last class day. However, this course does require students to attend a minimum of 7 total seminars. While some neuroscience seminars are during our regular scheduled class time, other seminars may not be. Thus, students may be expected to attend these seminars outside of normal class time. 5 of these seminars are at the student's discretion (you may choose whichever seminars you prefer).

There will be 3 group discussion/seminar days that we select together as a group. You only need to attend 2 of these. You will need to attend both the seminar AND the group discussion, which will either be after the seminar (12-1pm) with the speaker or in class the following week during the regularly scheduled class time.

If you are going to be absent from either the seminar and/or the discussion for more than 1 single group seminar (you must attend 2 of the 3), please email me ahead of time regarding your absence and provide documentation if at all possible.

If you know ahead of time that you will be unable to attend this final class due to pre-scheduled reasons, please complete an extra seminar summary and/or group seminar to make up for missing this assignment. If you are unable to attend at the last minute due to illness/emergency, please let me know and provide documentation before the start of the class session.

Modified Campus Operations / Digital Learning Days:

In the event of incremental weather or other reasons for campus shutdown, students should expect to move to a virtual class session at the regularly scheduled class time, unless otherwise specified via Canvas Announcement. Depending on the day(s) that campus is closed we may choose to hold class via Zoom or assign an alternative assignment for students to work on (replacing in-class discussion).

V. RESOURCES

Campus Resources:

Georgia Tech offers a wide range of campus resources to help students academically and personally. [Click here for a list of relevant resources.](#)

Help With Writing/Presentations:

- The [CommLab](#)

When in Doubt Contact:

The [Dean of Students Office](#) can connect you with specific resources if you are still unsure of where to go for help. The request assistance form is helpful for sharing documentation from Stamps with your professors among other things.