



Neuroscience 490: Senior Seminar I

Department of Neuroscience

Fall 2017

Loras College

Lecture

Hennessy 362

Time: Fridays 11:00 – 11:50

Instructor: Jake Kurczek, PhD
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Office Hours: By appointment

Textbook: *None*
Additional journal articles and materials will be assigned as needed and posted to the course website

Class Website: You will be able to find PDFs of the lectures and discussions posted to the course website

Course Goals and Overview

This course will serve as the first semester of a capstone series for all students completing a major in Neuroscience. The course meetings will occur once per week, and majors will enroll in the course during the fall semester of their Senior year at Loras College (exceptions (e.g. for study abroad programs, etc.) will be made at the discretion of the Neuroscience faculty). The first semester of the series (NEU 490) will involve:

1. Discussion of current topics in the field of neuroscience, which will be facilitated through directed readings.
2. Invited speakers in the field of neuroscience that will share both their experience in getting to their various positions within the field, and any current research they are involved in.
3. Exercises designed to prepare Neuroscience majors for their post-graduation plans, whether those include employment or enrollment in a graduate or health-related program.

Primary Course Objectives

The objectives of this course include:

1. To prepare students for post-graduation plans, whether they include employment or post-baccalaureate education.
2. To acquaint students with current topics relevant to the field of neuroscience
3. Know how to search scientific sources of information, comprehend their content, and appropriately communicate the material to an audience.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to demonstrate:

1. Competence in writing a resume, curriculum vitae, and cover letters for either employment or admission into a graduate or health-related program.
2. Awareness of current research topics, professional pathways, and necessary skill sets to succeed professionally, within the field of neuroscience.

Course Requirements, Policies and Assignments

Assignments

The following assessments will be used to evaluate individual student development in the course.

CV	15		12%
Resume	15		12%
Cover Letter	5		4%
Personal Essay	5		4%
Journal Report	30		24%
Discussion Leader	30		24%
Engagement and Community	25		20%
TOTAL	125	 	100%

Curriculum vitae

Students will be expected to produce a curriculum vitae for use when seeking admission into a post-baccalaureate program.

Resume

Students will be expected to produce a resume for use when seeking employment.

Cover letter

Students will be expected to produce two cover letters for use when seeking employment and when seeking admission into a post-baccalaureate program.

Journal Report

Each student will obtain one to two journal articles related to an area of neuroscience that they are interested in and present a summary of the paper(s), key experimental data and findings.

Engagement and Community

Students will be expected to actively participate in class and when they are watching and listening to visiting speakers' presentations. Engagement will be assessed via the number and quality of questions students ask during presentations, and via short reflective papers. Students are also expected to attend speakers outside of class time, participate in research, and support the neuroscience and research community at Loras throughout the semester.

Important Dates

8/28 – First day of classes

9/4 – Labor Day

10/7 - Homecoming
 10/16-10/17 – Fall Free Days
 11/10 – Nick Wetjen Visit
 11/22-11/24 – Thanksgiving
 12/8 – Last Day of Class
 12/11-12/14 – Final Exams

Schedule*

Day	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Week 1	Welcome / Orientation		
Week 2	CV / Academic Options		
Week 3	Resume / Non-Academic Options		
Week 4	School / Job Requirements		CV
Week 5	School / Job Search Process		Resume
Week 6	Dr. Daniel O'Donoghue Talk		
Week 7	Gathering Research		Cover Letter
Week 8	Literature Assessment		
Week 9	Critiquing Research		Journal Report Draft
Week 10	Personal Essay		
Week 11	Presentation		Presentations
Week 12	Dr. Nick Wetjen Talk		Journal Report
Week 13	Presentation		Personal Essay
Week 14	Thanksgiving		
Week 15	Presentation		
Week 16	Finals		