Definitions and Objectives

This is a neuroscience laboratory research course, designed to provide students with hands-on experience in research and increase their familiarity with laboratory methods and processes. The knowledge gained in this course will provide a background for students interested in pursuing careers in biology, biotechnology, research, health/medicine or the allied health professions. Students will participate in research projects in Dr. Khan’s laboratory, interact with other students, staff and faculty, attend lab meetings, and may be asked to present their data and/or published papers from the primary research literature. Research projects will be in the areas of neuroscience, functional neuroanatomy and microscopy. It is expected that students will dedicate 3–5 hours per week to the completion of this course and its requirements. Specific research projects and responsibilities will be assigned at the beginning of the semester for each student. This course may be used as upper division elective units; however, no more than 6 hours of 4198–4298–4398 may be counted as upper division elective units toward graduation.

Course Organization and Grading

Attendance to lab meetings is required, as is weekly communication with Dr. Khan. Letter grades for this course will be determined based primarily on student attendance and performance, and will be assigned as follows: 90–100%, A; 80–89%, B; 70–79%, C; 60–69%, D; 59% or less, F.

Absence and Drop Policy

It is your responsibility to attend the lab the required amount of time. If you have a serious illness or a legitimate excuse (includes military personnel called to active duty or training) for being out-of-town, make arrangements with me or your assigned lab supervisor before you leave. If you wish to drop this course, it is your responsibility to drop it by the posted due date to receive an automatic “W”.

Texts

- Brain maps 4.0—Structure of the rat brain: An open access atlas with global nervous system nomenclature ontology and flatmaps. The Journal of Comparative Neurology, 526(6), 935–943.

- Additional research literature will be provided.

Course Schedule

The schedule for each student will be determined on an individual basis based on that student’s course schedule and outside work/personal obligations. Students wishing to perform a substantial project are expected to be in the lab working when they are not in class. Students are expected to be in the lab after hours and on weekends if required for the experiments being performed, and are also expected to coordinate their schedules with those of any lab supervisors assigned to them.

UTEP Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline and will be reported to the Dean of Student Affairs. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person.

Accessibility

If you have or suspect you have a disability and need accommodations, contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at cass@utep.edu. The office is located in Union Building East, Rm. 106; and on the web at https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/. You are responsible for presenting to Dr. Khan any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.