

Autism and other Neurodev. Disorders

Syllabus Spring 2023

Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Lecturer	Discussion	Exam dates
1	4-Apr	01 Symptoms	PW		
	6-Apr	02 Genetics	Monte Westerfield, UO		
2	11-Apr	03 Epidemiology	Eric Fombonne, OHSU		
	13-Apr			Genetics	
3	18-Apr	04 The Brain	Amanda White, UO		
	20-Apr			Epidemiology	
4	25-Apr	05 Molecular Etiology	PW		
	27-Apr			The Brain	
5	2-May	06 Model Organisms	PW		
	4-May			Model Organisms	
6	9-May	07 Diagnosis	Randy Phelps, CDRC	Essay Writing	Midterm
	11-May				
7	16-May	08 Intervention Strategies	Laura Lee McIntyre, UO	Symptoms and Diagnosis	
	18-May				Midterm due
8	23-May	09 Public Policy and Societal Impacts	Joyce Bernheim, OCASD		
	25-May			Intervention Strategies	
9	30-May	10 Syndrome	PW		
	1-Jun			Public Policy	Final
10	6-Jun	11 Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder	PW		
	8-Jun			Syndromes and Schizophrenia	
11	13-Jun				Final Due

Course Prerequisites

Bi360 Neurobiology or equivalent neuroscience background is required. If you are uncertain about whether you have met the prerequisites, please email me.

Course topics and goals

This course covers autism spectrum disorder and other neurodevelopmental disorders. You will learn: the components of the nervous system pertinent to these disorders, the genetics of these disorders, epidemiology, diagnostic and intervention techniques, their impact on society and how neuroscientists study these disorders.

The goals of this course are to give you:

- (1) a basic knowledge of neurodevelopmental disorders;
- (2) a working vocabulary pertinent to these disorders;
- (3) an understanding of the methods used by neuroscientists, medical professionals and therapists;
- (4) practice thinking analytically and synthesizing information, so that you will be better equipped to read and critically analyze primary scientific literature or media reports on these disorders.

Lectures and Discussions

The course meeting times will alternate between lectures and discussions. Many of the lectures will be given by outside speakers on their specialist topic. The discussions will largely center around reading pertinent to the accompanying lectures. Discussions will also involve group presentations, which will be graded.

See here for guidance on making presentations: [Presentation Rubrique and Pointers](#)

Reading

Readings will be provided for each discussion, and will cover material pertinent to the accompanying lecture. Often they will be reviews or primary research articles suggested by the guest speakers.

Tests

These will be available in Canvas after lectures/discussions and will be to assess the knowledge you have retained from the lecture and associated discussion.

Grading

Your grade will be based on the point distribution below.

The Midterm and Final will be a take home essay question. They can be found on the [Quizzes](#) page.

See here for guidance on preparation of the essays: [Scientific Essay Writing](#)

Table of Grade Contributions

Assignment	Number	Contribution to Grade	Rule
Tests	8	25%	worst score will be dropped
Discussion Group Presentations	1	15%	
Midterm	1	30%	
Final Exam	1	30%	

A+: Work of unusual distinction, only used when a student's performance significantly exceeds all requirements and expectations for the assignment. This grade is rarely awarded.

A: Excellent grasp of the material, with precise and insightful analysis and arguments. Must be well executed and reasonably free of errors. Can signify strong performance across the board, or exceptional performance in one aspect of the assignment offsetting somewhat less strong performance in another.

B: Work that satisfies the main criteria of the assignment, and demonstrates good command of the material, but does not achieve the level of excellence that characterizes work of A quality.

C: Work that demonstrates a basic grasp of the material and satisfies at least some of the assigned criteria reasonably well.

D: Work that demonstrates a poor grasp of the material and/or is executed with little regard for college standards, but which exhibits some engagement with the material.

F: Work that is weak in every aspect, demonstrating a basic misunderstanding of the material and/or disregard for the assigned question or prompt.

Plus (+) is added to a grade when the student's performance is at the upper end of the range for that grade.

Minus (-) is added to a grade when the student's performance is at the lower end of the range for that grade.

<i>Bin</i>	<i>Grade</i>
≤50	F
≤60	D-
≤63.3	D
≤66.7	D+
≤70	C-
≤73.3	C
≤76.7	C+
≤80	B-
≤83.3	B
≤86.7	B
≤90	B+
≤93.3	A-
≤96.7	A
≤100	A+

Office Hours

Office hours will be every Monday from 2-3pm in WILL 176.

In addition, you can schedule a personal meeting with me by emailing me: pwash@uoregon.edu

Professional Conduct

You are expected to follow the student conduct code; academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarizing or knowingly supplying false information. If you are aware of academic dishonesty occurring, please contact me.

COVID-19 Policy

This class is in person. All present should be vaccinated and boosted per UO policies. Masks are appreciated. I will not wear a mask while lecturing, but may wear a mask in closer settings, eg office hours. If you test positive, have close interaction with someone who tests positive or if you start showing symptoms please refrain from coming to class to protect others. Here are links to the UO [COVID-19 Safety Resources](#), a [symptom self-check](#) and [a list of symptoms](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Students with Disabilities

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 360 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.