

## NBIO 228

### Diseases of the Nervous System

*Faculty:* John Gilmore, Paul Manis, and staff.

*Principles of organization:* The primary objective of this course is to provide a forum in which to explore and discuss both the historical and contemporary literature pertaining to classes of disorders of the nervous system. Each session will be devoted to analysis of assigned reading material consisting of review articles and original journal articles pertaining to specific disorders or classes of disorders.

*Reading Assignments:* Core reading assignments will be made in the textbooks associated with the Medical Neurobiology course, which most students will have taken before this block. In addition, original research articles will be provided for discussion. On the block schedule, required reading will be indicated by an asterisk (\*) and may include original articles for discussion as well as textbook chapters. Articles which will be provided to you are indicated in *italics*.

*Discussion participation:* In an effort to help get the discussions going at each session, we have devised specific questions about the reading material to guide your thinking about the papers. These questions will be given out coincidentally with the papers to enable you to be better prepared for your required participation in class.

*Course grade:* The course grade will consist of 25% class participation, based mainly on discussion and contributions, and 75% on a final paper. Papers will be due on December 6 (the last day of the class). You will be asked to identify your paper topic by class on November 12, although you may wish to identify it earlier.

The paper is intended to be a brief review and discussion of one of the areas we are covering. You should include both a review of basic neurobiology and mechanisms underlying the disease, and what you see as potential neuroscience-related elements of disease detection, treatment, therapy, etc.

It may be useful for you to focus your efforts in one direction, rather than attempting to be encyclopedic. You can also structure your paper as the Background and Significance section of a grant proposal, where you will educate the reader with regards to the topic, present current problems, gaps in knowledge, or opportunities. You would then discuss how these can be approached and then defend the benefits and discuss the limitations might be associated with a particular approach. The paper should be about 10 pages long (We won't hold you to 10 pages, but if you go over this limit, please make sure that it is really necessary), double spaced, in 12 point font (Times or Palatino preferred). Leave sufficient margins for comments (1 inch on all sides). The reference list and any figures should be on separate pages, and do not count against the text page limit. Please use complete reference citations (all authors unless there are more than 8; then use the first 8 + et al.: article title, volume, pages, and year). If you use published figures, or minor modifications of such figures, please include in the legend and in your reference list a citation for the figure."