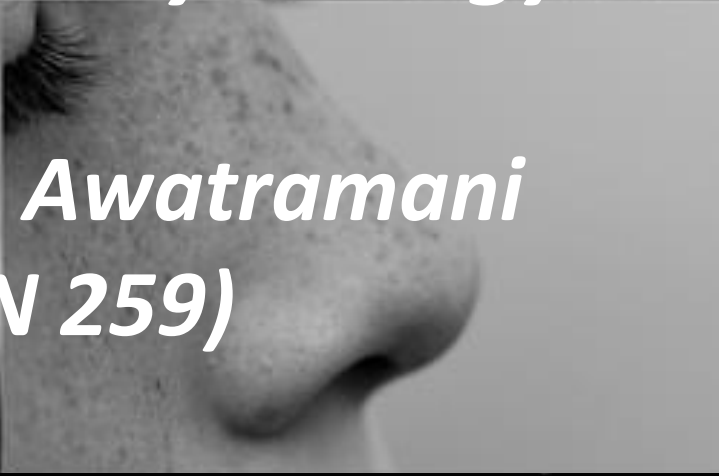
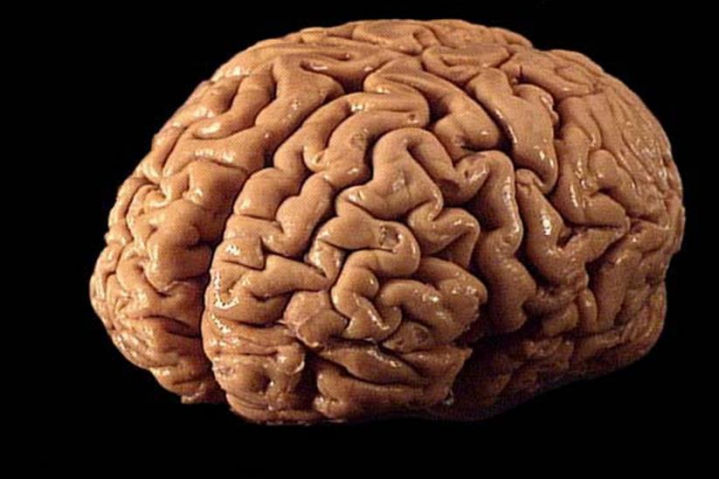




***Biol 404 Sensory Biology***



***Dr. Gautam Awatramani  
(CUN 259)***



# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

- The Department of Biology aims to provide a safe, respectful and inclusive learning and working environment for all members of our community and strives to be a place that is free of discrimination and harassment, sexualized violence, cyberbullying, and other acts of violence or injustice.
- *All members of the university community, including faculty, staff and students, have rights and responsibilities under, and are expected to familiarise themselves with, the following policies:*
  - Human Rights, Equity And Fairness
  - Discrimination and Harassment
  - Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response
  - Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations

# Rights and Responsibilities

## • Rights

- Everyone has the right to work, study and participate in university activities in an environment free of discrimination, harassment and sexualized violence.
- Everyone has the right to be treated fairly (procedural fairness).

## Responsibilities

- *Model respectful behaviour.*
- *Refuse to engage in, or condone, behaviour that is contrary to university policies.*
- *Actively seek to incorporate principles of respect and consent into all interpersonal and academic relationships at UVic.*

# Support and Resources

- The Biology Department has an **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (Biology EDI)**, which aims to promote EDI in our department and courses, and to support students, staff, and faculty.
- *If you have any comments or question, you can reach Biology EDI by contacting any of the committee members listed on the Biology Department website (click on the “Equity & Diversity” tab on drop-down menus).*
- UVic has extensive resources education, information, assistance and advice to help build an inclusive campus. These can be accessed within the **Equity and Human Rights (EQHR) office** (<https://www.uvic.ca/equity/index.php>)

# Sexualised Violence

- UVic takes sexualized violence seriously and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [www.uvic.ca/sexualizedviolence](http://www.uvic.ca/sexualizedviolence).
- *If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:*
- Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119
- Phone: 250.721.8021
- Email: [svpcoordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:svpcoordinator@uvic.ca)
- Web: [www.uvic.ca/sexualizedviolence](http://www.uvic.ca/sexualizedviolence)

# Cyberbullying

- Bullying happens in many ways including verbal, physical, social, and online through **cyberbullying**.
- *We encourage you to learn more about **what the law says about online harassment and abuse** in the leaflet “**Is that Legal?**” produced by the Legal Services Society in collaboration with West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund about taking and sharing intimate images, cyberstalking and sexual exploitation.*
- You can find the leaflet online: <https://lss.bc.ca/publications/pub/legal>

# Overview

A major goal of this course is to support the development of skills relating to

- (i) evaluation of the primary literature
- (ii) developing hypotheses based on pre-existing data
- (iii) designing experiments to test hypotheses

For each topic covered, approximately 2/3 of the time will be spent in a lecture-style format to introduce the topic focused on a discussion paper

1/3 of the time will be spent on a detailed discussion of this article.

The article or “discussion paper” will emphasize major discoveries in the field and/or a novel experimental technique. Each figure within the paper will be examined and we will discuss the conclusions of the paper, overall significance and possible future experiments.

# *Reading Material*

There is no assigned text for this course. Reading material will be drawn from primary literature, review articles and other sources and will be posted on the UVic Brightspaces.

Students will benefit from having access to recent Neuroscience and Cellular/Molecular Biology textbooks.

Suggested Textbooks:

- Neuroscience (Purves et al.)
- Principles of Neural Science (Eric Kandel, James Schwartz and Thomas Jessell)



# Grading

Grades will be assigned in accordance with University of Victoria guidelines. See: Undergraduate Calendar regarding Evaluation of Student Achievement

(<https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/HkFCesMON?bc=true&bcCurrent=09%20-%20Evaluation%20of%20Student%20Achievement&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies>)

It is the policy of the Department of Biology that no supplemental exams or assignments will be offered.

**Students are responsible of confirming their status in the course and must not assume they will be automatically dropped from the course if they do not attend.**

# Break down of the final grade

Quizzes (8)	30%
Presentations	10%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%

- Must receive 50% on the Quiz section in order to attempt the Final Exam
- Must receive 50% on the Final Exam to pass the course

# *Weekly Quizzes*

- Each quiz will consist of ~5 multiple choice (M/C) questions
- Lecture material **directly related to the paper to be discussed that day** will be emphasized
- The questions are designed to encourage a critical and thorough examination of the discussion paper
- The quizzes will be handed at the **start of class (most Fridays)** and students will be given **10 minutes** to complete the quiz.
- Total of **8** quizzes

## *Student presentations (Nov 17 onwards)*

- Group presentations ~2-3 students/ group. Groups will be automatically assigned via Brightspace
- Example: Background/Introduction, methods, results, discussion
- Grade assigned based on individual and group presentation
- Papers are to be chosen from three journals: Neuron, Cell Reports and Nature Neuroscience. Article needs to be approved by the instructor
- Presentation material maybe included in the final exam

## *Mid-Term and End-term Exams*

- The Mid-Term exam (Oct 20<sup>nd</sup>) will test material presented till Oct 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Questions will be taken from both the lectures and discussion papers
- The exams will be mostly short answer questions with some matching, M/C and labeling of diagrams
- The End-term exam will be comprehensive

## IMPORTANT DATES

Academic Year are found here:

<https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/dates/>.

The last day for adding courses September 22

Last day for dropping course:

- September 19 (Last day for 100% reduction of tuition fees )
- October 10 (last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees)
- October 31 (without penalty of failure)

# Academic concessions

- In agreement with UVic policy, an exam missed for a legitimate reason (illness, accident, family affliction; does not include weddings etc.) may be rescheduled provided supporting documentation from a physician, UHS or UVic Counselling Services is presented
- In the case of a missed quiz, a **2 page written report** summarizing the discussion paper (including an Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion section) submitted **within two weeks** of dates of absence (as per doctors note), will be evaluated and marked by the instructor

# Academic Integrity

Academic integrity matters are governed by UVic's Policy on Academic Integrity ([https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk\\_0xsM\\_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcltemType=policies](https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcltemType=policies)), which now includes provisions for the Unauthorized Use of an Editor.

## Plagiarism

Libraries' plagiarism guide  
(<https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/>).

I reserve the right to use plagiarism detection software or other platforms to assess the integrity of student work



# Comments from previous students

- *Slides contain scant information*
- *Extremely hard course, it took a lot of my time*
- *Weekly quizzes were difficult in the beginning but were fair*
- *Weekly quizzes were way too taxing*
- *Instructor often went too fast*
- *Instructor was always available for questions outside class*

# Office Hours

Wednesday 1:30 -4:30 pm

***CUN 259D***

# Course Outline\*

	TUES	TOPIC	WED	TOPIC	FRI	TOPIC
1	5-Sep-23		6-Sep-23	Intro: Action Potentials	8-Sep-23	Synaptic Transmission
2	12-Sep-23	Auditory System: The Ear	13-Sep-23	Hair cells	15-Sep-23	Quiz 1/DISCUSSION PAPER 1
3	19-Sep-23	Auditory Pathways	20-Sep-23	Sound localization	22-Sep-23	Quiz 2/DISCUSSION PAPER 2
4	26-Sep-23	Somatosensory (Touch)	27-Sep-23	Proprioception	29-Sep-23	Quiz 3/DISCUSSION PAPER 3
5	3-Oct-23	Pain pathways	4-Oct-23	Chemical senses (Taste)	6-Oct-23	Quiz 4/DISCUSSION PAPER 4
6	10-Oct-23	Chemical senses (Olfaction)	11-Oct-23	Chemical senses (Olfaction)	13-Oct-23	Quiz 5/DISCUSSION PAPER 5
7	17-Oct-23	Chemical senses (Olfaction)	18-Oct-23	Review	20-Oct-23	<b>MID-TERM</b>
8	24-Oct-23	Central Visual Pathways	25-Oct-23	Photoreceptors	27-Oct-23	Quiz 6/DISCUSSION PAPER 6
9	31-Oct-23	Retinal Circuitry (Rod/Cone)	1-Nov-23	Retinal Circuitry (C/S)	3-Nov-23	Quiz 7/DISCUSSION PAPER 7
10	7-Nov-23	Retinal Circuitry (DS)	8-Nov-23	Retinal Circuitry (DS)	10-Nov-23	Quiz 8/DISCUSSION PAPER 8
11	14-Nov-23	<b>READING BREAK</b>	15-Nov-23	<b>READING BREAK</b>	17-Nov-23	Special topic or Presentations
12	21-Nov-23	Student presentations	22-Nov-23	Student presentations	24-Nov-23	Student presentations
13	28-Nov-23	Student presentations	29-Nov-23	Student presentations	1-Dec-23	Student presentations
		Thanksgiving Oct 09		10 Oct 50% withdraw		
		Reading Break Nov 13-15		31 Oct last day to withdraw		

\*course schedule is subject to change - changes will be announced in class and posted on Brightspace