

****Syllabus subject to change**

HDDR 6320 Neuroscience: The Role of the Brain in Emotion Collaboration and Conflict
Southern Methodist University
Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development
Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management
5228 Tennyson Parkway Suite 118
Plano, TX 75024
972-473-3425

Spring Term

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Betty Gilmore

Email: bgilmore@smu.edu

Hours: By appointment, Suite 118

Class Time:

Tuesdays, 6-10:15pm

Credit: 3 hours

Course Description

Neuroscience: The Role of the Brain in Emotion, Collaboration and Conflict

This course will provide insight into the critical role that neuroscience plays in conflict, collaboration and emotion. In addition, the relationship between the brain and decision making, cognition, compassion, empathy, problem solving, behavior and risk will be explored. Learn how instinctual responses can be tempered by connecting these important elements with strategies which can be applied utilizing various conflict resolution processes.

<http://smu.edu/education/disputeresolution/coursedescriptions.asp>

Required Reading

Goleman, Daniel (2011-04-12). The Brain and Emotional Intelligence: New Insights (Paperback Edition).

Grahm, Linda (2013-4-9). Bouncing Back: Rewiring Your Brain for Maximum Resilience and Well-Being (Paperback Edition)

Additional reading materials will be provided by instructor

| Date | Topics |
|-------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, Jan 21, 2013 | Introduction to Course Review of Grading and Syllabus Intro to Neuroscience and Learning |
| Tuesday, Jan 28, 2013 | Brain Mechanics Conflict |
| Tuesday, Feb 4, 2013 | Decision Making |
| Tuesday, Feb 11, 2013 | Intro to Emotional Intelligence Emotion: Stress, Trauma, Fear, Anger, and Aggression |
| Tuesday, Feb 18, 2013 | Emotion Cont'd |
| Tuesday, Feb 25, 2013 | Memory and Social Cognition, and Risk Taking Emotions Cont'd |
| Tuesday, March 4, 2013 | Empathy, Trust, Intuition and Compassion |
| Tuesday, March, 2013 | Attachment Collaboration and Cooperation: The Science of Peacemaking |
| Tuesday, March 11, 2013 | Mastery of Self: Self-Regulation and Self Awareness/Mindfulness Science to Practice |
| Tuesday, March 18, 2013 | Science to Practice/Final Exam |

Objectives and Measurements:

1. Students can analyze the strengths and weakness of the neuroscience perspective.

These analysis skills will be evaluated through an in class exam, forum discussions, and class participation.

2. Students will gain a general understanding of the brain and its role in conflict, emotion and collaboration.

This objective will be measured through an in class exam.

3. Students can integrate and synthesize neuroscience and skills learned during the course.

This objective will be evaluated in forum posts and in class participation.

4. Students will gain insight into how their brain works in various types of situations.

This objective will be evaluated based upon completion of in class participation, exercises, and forum posts.

Teaching Methods

This class is designed to build analytic ability and increase knowledge that can be applied in various collaborative processes and conflict situations. We will do active learning through discussion, skill building techniques and case analyses. It is very important that you complete assigned readings by the due date. Class activities will be based on the readings.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Student Evaluation and Grading Policy

10% of your grade will be based upon your participation in our discussions and exercises.

The student regularly contributes to class discussions and additional assignments as required. The student notifies the instructor within the first two weeks of the term if issues hinder participation (e.g., need for ADA accommodation, extreme shyness, cultural considerations, etc.) – such issues will not negatively affect the participation grade. Students must notify instructor prior to any absence and the reason for that absence as soon as possible. The instructor will determine whether or not the absence is excused or unexcused. Make up work will be expected for all absences.

50% of your grade will be based upon a written final exam.

40% of your grade will be based upon the participations in two discussion forums on Blackboard. (Instructions will be distributed in class)

STUDENT EVALUATION AND GRADING SCALE

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 93-100 = A Exceptional | A superior / outstanding performance. Has mastered the concepts and adds unique contributes to class discussions. |
| 90-92 = A- Excellent | A very good / admirable performance. Displays understanding in all areas of the class, and contributes successfully to class discussions. |
| 87-89 = B+ Outstanding | Above average performance. A few insignificant flaws may appear, but overall has great application of the field. |
| 83-86 = B Good | A generally satisfactory, intellectually adequate performance. Few significant flaws in performance. |
| 80-82 = B- Adequate | A barely satisfactory performance. Contributes little to class discussions and lacks a clear understanding of concepts. |
| 77-79 = C+ Not sufficient | An unacceptable performance. Unable to engage in class discussions and has little comprehension of theories. |

COURSE POLICIES

Honor Code

Students are reminded of the SMU Honor Code as referenced in the *Student Hand Book*. Intellectual integrity and academic honesty are both the foundations and the goals for this program. Please reference and review the university policies on the responsibilities, policies, and penalties regarding academic honesty found at:

http://www.smu.edu/studentlife/PCL_05_HC.asp

Notification of Absence Due to Religious Holy Day(s)

Students who will be absent from class for the observance of a religious holiday must notify the instructor in advance. Please refer to the Student Obligations section of the university catalog for more explanations. You are required to complete any assignments or take any examinations missed as a result of the absence within the time frame specified by your instructor.

Disabilities Accommodations

Students needing academic accommodations for disability must contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4557) to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. They should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements.

Add/Drop Policy

If you are unable to complete this course, you must officially withdraw by the university deadline; the last day to Add/Drop regular courses without a grade record or Billing. Withdrawing is a formal procedure which you must initiate; your instructor cannot do it for you.

Grade of Incomplete

A student may receive a grade of I (Incomplete) if at least 50 percent of the course requirements have been completed with passing grades, but for some justifiable reason, acceptable to the instructor, the student has been unable to complete the full requirements of the course. At the time a grade of I is given, the instructor must stipulate in writing to the student and to the University registrar the requirements and completion date that are to be met and the grade that will be given if the requirements are not met by the completion date. The maximum period of time allowed to clear the Incomplete grade normally is 12 months. If the Incomplete grade is not cleared by the date set by the instructor or by the end of the 12-month Policies and Procedures 25 deadline, the grade of I will be changed to the grade provided by the instructor at the time the Incomplete grade was assigned or to a grade of F if no alternate grade was provided. The grade of I is not given in lieu of a grade of F or W, or other grade, each of which is prescribed for other specific circumstances.

If the student's work is incomplete, poor quality and not acceptable, a grade of F will be given. The grade of I does not authorize a student to attend the course during a later term. Graduation candidates must clear all Incomplete grades prior to the deadline in the Official University Calendar, which may allow less time than 12 months. Failure to do so can result in removal from the degree candidacy list and/or conversion of the grade of I to the grade indicated by the instructor at the time the grade of I was given.

For graduate students, a maximum of two (six hours) concurrently held grades of Incomplete in courses other than thesis is allowed. If this maximum is reached, the student will be allowed to take only one three-hour course per term until the Incomplete total is reduced. Students who accumulate a total of three grades of Incomplete in courses other than thesis will be put on probation and not allowed to enroll further until the total is reduced.

SMU EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

As part of the federal government response to the H1N1 (Swine Flu) virus, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a nationwide public health emergency preparedness declaration on April 26, 2009. The declaration was renewed on July 23, 2009 and is currently in force. For the semester ahead, there is concern that the level and intensity of flu cases could increase substantially.

- 1) For updates on the campus-wide status of flu conditions at SMU, please visit <http://www.smu.edu>.
- 2) If flu conditions require cancellation of a class session or other changes for this course, an email will be sent to all class members.
- 3) In the event of a major campus emergency at SMU, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control.