Preparing for Your Neuroscience Qualifying Exam

Course: GS-NE-447
Credits: 1
Didactic: N
Academic Year: 2016
Term: 2
Room: S740
Class: MW, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

COURSE DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION
Name: Joanna Jankowsky, Ph.D.
Office: BCMJ-670EA
Email: jankowsk@bcm.edu
Office Hours: As needed

Name: Kimberley Tolias, Ph.D.
Office: BCMS-S607B
Email: tolias@bcm.edu
Office Hours: As needed

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:
This course will explain the requirements and expectations of the qualifying exam in Neuroscience. The course is geared specifically towards second year students who have successfully completed their first year coursework and several months’ work in their chosen thesis lab. The course will cover the format of the written and oral exams, tips for structuring the aims and scope of the written proposal, and provide students with opportunity to develop and deliver their oral presentation for feedback from the group. The goal of the course is to help students begin thinking about their work independently and to present their research problem and experimental goals clearly. Ultimately, this course is intended to encourage independent NRSA applications from those students who qualify.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:
None

PREREQUISITE(S) or EXCLUSIONS:
None

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:
Attendance is required at all classes unless previous arrangements are made with the course directors.

GRADING:
Pass/Fail

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT:
Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and abide by all policies of Baylor College of Medicine, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and their Programs. Any conduct not in keeping with the ethical or professional standards of BCM is defined as professional misconduct. Academic misconduct is defined as dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, etc.) that occurs in conjunction with academic requirements such as coursework including homework and examinations.
**STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES:**
Students with documented disabilities can seek accommodations from Student Disability Services at 713-798-8137 or email to the Student Disability Coordinator, Ms. Mikiba Morehead at mikiba.morehead@bcm.edu. Information about a student's disability will be kept private. The student is responsible for informing the course director of approved accommodations prior to the first examination.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues Nov 1</td>
<td>Lecture 1: <strong>Intro to written and oral proposal</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Homework:</strong> Written draft of problem and hypothesis: 2-3 sentences for problem, 1-2 sentences for hypothesis, due for Lecture 2</td>
<td>Joanna Jankowsky</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jankowsk@bcm.edu">jankowsk@bcm.edu</a></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Kimberly Tolias</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tolias@bcm.edu">tolias@bcm.edu</a></td>
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<td>Wed Nov 2</td>
<td>Lecture 2: <strong>Review written problems and hypotheses</strong> (roundtable discussion) and <strong>Quick intro to Specific Aims</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Homework:</strong> Prepare 2-4 bullet point specific aims on one slide for class presentation. Work with your PI on this.</td>
<td>Jankowsky Tolias</td>
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<td>Tues Nov 8</td>
<td>Lecture 3: <strong>Review written specific aims</strong> (roundtable discussion limited to 15 min each)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Homework:</strong> Prepare 4 background slides on your topic (be specific), a problem slide, and a hypothesis slide</td>
<td>Jankowsky Tolias</td>
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<td>Wed Nov 9</td>
<td>Lecture 4: <strong>Review written specific aims</strong>, continued</td>
<td>Jankowsky Tolias</td>
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<td>Thurs Nov 17</td>
<td>Lecture 5: <strong>Review oral presentations of background, problem, and hypothesis slides</strong> (4 students will present during each meeting this week – limited to 20 min each)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Homework:</strong> Prepare slides to describe your rationale and research plan for ONE specific aim in depth, 6-8 slides total</td>
<td>Jankowsky Tolias</td>
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<td>Fri Nov 18</td>
<td>Lecture 6: <strong>Review oral presentations of background, problem, and hypothesis slides</strong>, continued</td>
<td>Jankowsky Tolias</td>
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<td>Tues Nov 29</td>
<td>Lecture 7: <strong>Review oral presentations with BRIEF background, restatement of problem and hypothesis, then focusing on detailed presentation of ONE specific aim and strategy</strong> (4 students will present during each meeting this week – limited to 20 min each)</td>
<td>Jankowsky Tolias</td>
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<td>Wed Nov 30</td>
<td>Lecture 8: <strong>Review oral presentations with BRIEF background, restatement of problem and hypothesis, then focusing on detailed presentation of ONE specific aim and strategy</strong>, continued</td>
<td>Jankowsky Tolias</td>
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Course Syllabus Term 2, AY 2016-17