

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**  
**COLLEGE OF MEDICINE SYLLABUS**  
**NEUROSCIENCE**  
**Neurobiology of Psychiatric Disorders (Journal Club)**  
**GMS6029 (1 credit)**  
**Fall 2023**

Course Coordinator: Ben Lewis ([benlewis@ufl.edu](mailto:benlewis@ufl.edu))

Room Number: CG-41

Meetings Time: Tuesday 12:00-1:00

Phone Number: (352) 294-8724

Office Hours: By Appointment (Room D2-011)

Graduate Assistant: None

Preferred Course Communications: Email

**Course objective:** This is a 1-credit course primarily directed towards BMS graduate students, but students in other programs (e.g., Psychology, Clinical and Health Psychology, Pharmacology) as well as advanced undergraduates may be interested as well. The primary course objective is to review current and critical literature concerning the neural basis of psychiatric disorders, including substance use disorders, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, Tourette syndrome, etc. See below for a list of journals where you would be likely to find appropriate papers on this topic.

**Expectations and grading:** Students will be required to read the assigned papers, attend all classes, and fully participate in class discussions. Grades will be based on preparedness and participation in class discussion, including the quality of presentations. In practice, this means that all students are required to participate (i.e. speak, ask questions, make comments) during every class. Satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading procedures will be used. For more information about UF grading policies see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

**Attendance and make-up policy:** Students are expected to attend and participate in all class sessions. Personal issues with respect to class attendance or fulfillment of course requirements will be handled on an individual basis. Absences due to illness, professional travel, etc. will be excused per UF policy. If a class is missed, the student will be required to provide a written “summary” on the paper that was discussed – this summary will consist of a description of the background and rationale, methods and results, the implications of the findings, and question or problem that the student has regarding the study.

**Instructional Methods & Assignments:** Students are expected to select an original research article examining the neurobiological basis of psychiatric disorders. The focus is on recent

work (suggested publication date within the last 2 years) in high-impact peer-reviewed journals (see suggestions below). Students will present at least one manuscript (with presentation requirements and frequency depending on course enrollment). Presentations include brief introduction to the paper, main findings of the study, and questions designed to elicit in-class discussion of the paper focusing on the significance of the study, as well as the major strengths and weaknesses of the article. All the students are expected to read and be prepared to discuss all aspects of each paper.

**List of journals that may contain appropriate papers:** These journals tend to publish papers that address questions from a variety of approaches/techniques and are comprehensive enough to both move the field forward and sustain an hour of presentation/discussion. That doesn't mean that such papers are not published elsewhere; this is not an exclusive list, but rather a good place to start. Many of these journals publish papers with supplementary online materials in addition to the paper itself. Make sure you read these materials and make them available to the class for reading as well.

Science  
Nature  
Cell  
Nature Neuroscience  
Neuron  
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences  
Scientific Reports  
Neuropsychopharmacology  
Biological Psychiatry  
Molecular Psychiatry  
The Journal of Neuroscience

**Topical Outline/Course Schedule:** Specific topics and readings for each class are not provided since we have a dynamic course schedule dependent on the research article that each student selects for discussion.

**Course Materials and Technology:** A digital version of the research article in PDF format will be emailed a week in advance to all enrolled students and instructors. Timely dissemination of PDFs is the responsibility of the presenting student.

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- [UF eLearning](#)

### **Academic Requirements and Grading**

**Grading:** Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. Grades will be determined based on class attendance and participation in paper discussions. More information on UF grading policy may be found at: <http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

**Exam Policy:** No exam

**Policy Related to Required Class Attendance:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance>

Additional information can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

**“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”**

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

**“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”**

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

**Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.**

**Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and

respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

**Policy Related to Guests Attending Class:** Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Please note that guests are **not** permitted to attend either cadaver or wet labs. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the [Classroom Guests of Students policy](#) in its entirety.

### **Support Services**

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

**Counseling and Student Health:** Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at UF Health is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at UF Health offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental

Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>

- UF Health Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32698, [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).
- University Police Department: Visit [police.ufl.edu/](http://police.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:  
Alachua County Crisis Center:  
(352) 264-6789  
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

### **Academic Resources**

**E-learning technical support:** Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

**Career Connections Center:** Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services [career.ufl.edu/](http://career.ufl.edu/).

**Library Support:** [cms.uflib.ufl.edu/](http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/) ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center:** Broward Hall 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. [teachingcenter.ufl.edu/](http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/)

**Writing Studio:** 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. [writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/](http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/)

**Student Complaints On-Campus:**  
[sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/](http://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/)

**On-Line Students Complaints:** [distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process](http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process)