

Seminar in Neuroscience: Sex Differences

ACN / HCS 7372

Fall 2021

Monday & Wednesday

11:30am – 12:45pm

Science Learning Center 3.102

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Vanessa Shirazi

Email: vanessa.shirazi@utdallas.edu

Office Hours: By agreement

Course Description

This course is a seminar-based class that explores sex differences in the brain. A variety of topics will be covered including sex differences in development, clinical presentation, neuropsychiatry, stress and pain responsivity. Students will read, present, and critique primary literature on the topic.

Learning Objectives

The main goal of this course is to provide an environment for discussion of selected topics on sex differences in the brain and encourage thoughtful analysis of the research in this field. The objective is to help students develop a sophisticated understanding of the burgeoning area of sex influences on brain function.

Required Textbooks

No textbook will be assigned for this course. Reading materials including articles, primary research papers, and book chapters will be assigned through eLearning.

Grading and Class Participation

There will be no exams. The course grade will be based on your presentations (2), class participation, and a final paper. Classes will consist of a combination of instructor-led discussion and student presentation based on the assigned readings for each meeting. Students will actively engage in the discussion each class and participation grade will be based on these discussions. For full credit, introduce at least one issue to the discussion and respond or comment on at least one issue raised by your classmates. The final paper will be a short review of a subject within sex differences. Your course grade will be calculated based on 3 components: **1) Class Participation (50%), 2) Presentation and leading discussion (2 presentations 20% each) 3) Final paper (10%)**

presentations 20 % each), 5) Final paper (10 %).

A total score of 90% and above for A, 80% and above for B, 70% and above for C, 60% and above for D, 59% or less for F.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	8/23 8/25	Introduction and Ongoing Debate
2	8/30 9/1	Sex Differences vs Similarities
3	9/6 9/8	Labor Day / Hormones
4	9/13 9/15	Development
5	9/20 9/22	Hormones and Behavior
6	9/27 9/29	Stress Responsivity
7	10/4 10/6	Pain Responsivity
8	10/11 10/13	Cognition and Neuropsychology
9	10/18 10/20	Clinical Disorders
10	10/25 10/27	Clinical Disorders
11	11/1 11/3	Motivation and Addiction
12	11/8 11/10	Neuroplasticity
13	11/15 11/17	Metabolism and Eating Behavior [Paper topic due]
14	11/22 11/24	Fall Break
15	11/29 12/1	Environmental Interactions
16	12/6 12/8	Concept of Gender [Final paper due]
17	12/13 12/15	Finals Week