

## Readings in Neuroscience: The Fragile Mind

HONS 3199.HN5

Spring 2020

**Syllabus updated 3/25/2020 to reflect migration to online learning**

### Professor Contact Information

Instructor: Eva LaDow

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Office location and phone: GC 1.220C, 972-883-3526 GC 1.220C, 972-883-3526 (**office, not available after 3/30/2020**)

Office Hours: As of 3/30/2020, office hours will be Wednesdays 4-4:50pm via Blackboard Collaborate.

### Course changes starting 3/30/2020

UT Dallas is requiring online instruction for the rest of the semester, after having extended spring break by one week. Both the timeline and format of the class will change going forward, as follows:

**Discussions and Participation:** For each week's material, I will open a discussion board for a 48-hour period, in order to hold conversation, analysis and questions over the readings. The discussion board for each week will open at 4:00pm Wednesday and run through 4:00pm Friday. **Each student must post at least three (3) substantive questions or comments for each week's discussion board. Co-discussion leaders must post five (5) substantive questions or comments.** These are minimum requirements; it is my intent that our discussion boards will be places for vibrant and rigorous conversation. All of the requirements for in person politeness will apply to our online conversations. Everyone will be expected to demonstrate civility and a respect for the thoughts, opinions and beliefs of others. **As we move into the online version of the class, your activity on the discussion boards will be your participation.**

**Office hours:** During our former classtime, Wednesdays 4-4:50pm, I will be holding an office hour via Blackboard Collaborate. I know that not everyone will have high quality enough internet access to participate in a live discussion, however, I would like to continue to have a live discussion as best as possible for the rest of the semester.

**Weekly Responses:** Your weekly response or "think" pieces will be due to me by email at 4pm each Wednesday. Attach your think pieces in .docx format. The file name must contain your name and the date of submission. It is important for me not to have 15 files each week that are titled "Response.docx" to sort through. Comments will be returned in Track Changes mode in Word.

**Term Paper:** Please note the change in due date for both the paper draft and the final paper. The draft will now also be submitted by email rather than giving me a physical copy. The assignment changes will be reflected in an updated guidelines document on eLearning.

**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions:** This honors reading course has no prerequisites and covers many aspects of the biological basis of memory.

### Course Description

The brain is a fundamentally plastic organ, able to store information and shape its responses based on experience. Memory in its many forms is essential for our day-to-day existence, and so disruptions in memory have profound clinical implications. Aberrations in memory formation underlie neurological

disorders including addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder. Diseases where memories are lost, such as Alzheimer's, are devastating. How does memory work? Where in the brain do memories live? What is the biological basis of memory storage, and how reliable is it? What happens when we can't trust our memories, when we can't make new memories, or when we lose the memories we once had? In this course we will explore the importance and fragility of memory through clinical cases, memoirs, and scientific literature.

### Learning Objectives

After taking this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the neurobiology of learning and memory.
- Describe and analyze relevant clinical cases and research on memory, diseases and disorder of memory, as well as the impact of false memories on the criminal justice system.

### Required Textbooks and Materials

The three required books for this course will be:

- 1) *Permanent Present Tense: The Unforgettable Life of the Amnesiac Patient, H.M.* by Dr. Suzanne Corkin
- 2) *In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of Mind* by Dr. Eric R. Kandel
- 3) *I Remain In Darkness* by Annie Ernaux

### Additional Course Materials

Additional short articles and essays may be assigned throughout the course at the instructor's discretion. These will be posted to eLearning, with the name of the reading including the date the reading.

**Timeline revised after online migration 3/30/2020. Course and assignment dates affected by this migration are indicated in bold.**

### Assignments & Academic Calendar

| Date             | Reading/Assignments Due  |
|------------------|--|
| 1/15/2020        | Introduction   |
| 1/22/2020        | Extraordinary cases in memory                                    |
| 1/29/2020        | Permanent Present Tense, prologue through Ch.4                   |
| 2/5/2020         | PPT Ch.5-7   |
| 2/12/2020        | PPT Ch.8-10  |
| 2/19/2020        | PPT Ch.11-epilogue   |
| 2/26/2020        | Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind with Special Guest Dr. Dow |
| 3/4/2020         | In Search of Memory, Ch. 1-5                                     |
| 3/11/2020        | ISOM Ch. 6-10  |
| 3/18/2020        | <b>Spring Break-No Class</b>                                     |
| <b>3/25/2020</b> | <b>Spring Break</b>  |
| <b>4/1/2020</b>  | ISOM Ch.11-15  |
| <b>4/8/2020</b>  | ISOM Ch.16-21  |
| <b>4/15/2020</b> | ISOM Ch.22-26, 29 <b>Term Paper Draft Due</b>                    |
| <b>4/22/2020</b> | I Remain In Darkness by Annie Ernaux                             |

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 4/29/2020 | When memory fails us  |
| 5/6/2020  | Term Paper Due by 5pm |

### Grading Policies

Your grade for the course will be based on attendance, informed participation, and one term paper. The grading scale for letters from percentages will be as follows: A+: 97-100%, A: 93-96%, A-: 90-92%, B+:87-89%, B: 83-86%, B-: 80-82%, C+: 77-79%, C:73-76%, C-: 70-72%, D: 60-69%.

### Attendance and Class Participation: 50%

**Attendance:** Attendance is required for this course. **If you miss class, you must notify me in advance, or in case of emergencies, as soon as is reasonable.** In the case of University excused absences, please provide the appropriate information to the instructor in a timely manner. As this class meets only once a week, participation grades will be affected after more than one non University excused absence.

**Participation:** I expect students to come to class having read the material and ready to contribute to the group discussion. Bring the appropriate course reading and notes with you to class. Be respectful of your classmates. Furthermore, each student will sign up on the first day of class to be a discussion co-leader at one class meeting for the semester. Further details will be given in class.

**Please note the changes above to class participation owing to the online migration from 3/30/2020 forward.**

### Weekly Responses: 20%

Every week before coming to class, I expect each student to write a brief (~250 word) response or “think piece” to the day’s discussion material. This should be an analysis or reaction to the reading, **not a summary**. The response will be handed in to me at the end of class. Paper copies of weekly responses are required. In the event of printer emergencies or other problems, think pieces should be emailed to me before class to be considered on time. Pieces submitted after class will be considered late and thus ineligible for credit.

**Please note the changes to weekly response submission above owing to the online migration from 3/30/2020 forward.**

### Term Paper: 30%

Toward the end of the term, you will write a researched and referenced paper, graded in two parts. Before the final paper is due, you will turn in a complete draft in order to receive feedback for revisions. Failure to hand in a complete draft will result in a 20% deduction from your final term paper grade.

Your term paper should be focused on a topic or discussion point from our reading that particularly interested you. This could be in the form of a critical book review. Perhaps you want to do more in-depth research on something presented in *In Search of Memory* or one of our handouts. I will give more guidelines on topic selection later in the semester.

### Course and Instructor Policies

**Late work:** Late work will be accepted only in documented emergency situations, and at the discretion of the professor

**Extra credit:** There are no extra credit opportunities in this class.

**COMET CREED**

*THIS CREED WAS VOTED ON BY THE UT DALLAS STUDENT BODY IN 2014. IT IS A STANDARD THAT COMETS CHOOSE TO LIVE BY AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME:*

*“AS A COMET, I PLEDGE HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND SERVICE IN ALL THAT I DO.”*

**UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*