NEUROSCIENCE (BI-CO)

Department Website:
https://www.haverford.edu/neuroscience

The desire to understand human and animal behavior in terms of nervous system structure and function is longstanding. Historically, researchers and scholars have approached this task from a variety of disciplines, including medicine, biology, psychology, philosophy, and physiology. The field of neuroscience emerged as an interdisciplinary approach, combining techniques and perspectives from these disciplines, as well as emerging fields such as computation and cognitive science, to yield new insights into the workings of the nervous system and behavior.

The Major and Minor in Neuroscience advance two overlapping but distinct sets of learning goals, which are explained in turn below.

Learning Goals

Neuroscience Major

The major in Neuroscience allows students to pursue an in-depth study of the nervous system and behavior across disciplines. Students should consult with the Neuroscience Director or any member of the faculty advisory committee in order to declare the major.

The goals of the major include enabling students to gain:

• Training in cognate disciplines that are fundamental to the study of neuroscience
• An in-depth understanding of the organization of the nervous system and its relation to categories of behavior such as motor control, sensation and perception, motivational states, and higher cognition.
• fluency with the many levels at which the nervous system can be studied, including molecular, cellular, systems, behavioral and cognitive neuroscience levels.
• an ability to closely examine and critically evaluate primary research on specialized, advanced neuroscience topics.
• an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of neuroscience and the allied disciplines that inform the study of mind, brain, and behavior.
• Experience with neuroscience laboratory skills and the design and analysis of neuroscience experiments.

Neuroscience Minor

The minor in Neuroscience allows students with any major to pursue interests in behavior and the nervous system across disciplines. Students should consult with the Neuroscience Director or any member of the faculty advisory committee in order to declare the minor.

The goals of the minor include enabling students to gain:

• a basic understanding of the organization of the nervous system and its relation to categories of behavior such as motor control, sensation and perception, motivational states, and higher cognition.
• an appreciation of and fluency with the many levels at which the nervous system can be studied, including molecular, cellular, systems, behavioral and cognitive neuroscience levels.
• an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of neuroscience and the allied disciplines that inform the study of mind, brain, and behavior.
• an ability to closely examine and critically evaluate primary research on specialized, advanced neuroscience topics.

Haverford’s Institutional Learning Goals are available on the President’s website, at http://hav.to/learninggoals.

Major Requirements

• Introduction to Neuroscience (1 credit)
  • NEUR H100
• Foundational Science Courses (4 credits)
  • 1 semester of General Chemistry (CHEM H111, CHEM H113, CHEM H115, CHEM B103)
  • 1 semester of Introductory Biology (BIOL H200, BIOL B110 or BIOL B111)
  • 1 semester of Introductory Psychology (PSYC H100 or PSYC B105)
  • 1 semester of Statistics (PSYC H200, PSYC B205; MATH H103 or MATH H203, MATH B104, or ECON H203)
• Upper-level Neuroscience Courses with Breadth Requirement (4 credits)
  • Students must take 4 credits of upper-level neuroscience courses
  • Upper-level Neuroscience courses are divided into three categories: Cellular/Molecular, Behavioral/Systems, and Cognitive. Students must take courses from at least two of the three categories to fulfill the breadth requirement.
  • A list of approved courses and their categories is linked from the Neuroscience website.
• Laboratory Coursework in Neuroscience (1 credit)
  • In order to gain hands-on experience with some of the tools, methods, and paradigms of Neuroscience, majors are required to take 1 credit of neuroscience laboratory coursework. This can be accomplished in several ways (e.g., 2 half-credit psych labs, 1 full-credit psych lab, 1 full-credit neuroscience SuperLab).
  • A list of approved laboratory courses is linked from the Neuroscience website.
• Thesis or Capstone in Neuroscience (1 credit)
  • To culminate their experience as a Neuroscience major, students are required to complete one course of thesis or capstone work. This may take the form of a 2-semester laboratory thesis project or a 1-semester capstone course.
Minor Requirements

- One approved “gateway” course:
  - HC NEUR H100 (Introduction to Neuroscience),
  - HC PSYC H217 (Behavioral Neuroscience) or BMC PSYC B218 (Behavioral Neuroscience)
  - BIOL B202 (Neurobiology).
- Five credits from the list of approved courses, with these constraints:
  - The five credits must sample from three different disciplines.
  - At least three of the five credits must come from List A: Primary Neuroscience courses
  - At least one of the credits must be at the 300-level or higher.
  - One of the five credits may come from supervised senior research in neuroscience.
  - No more than two of the six minor credits may come from institutions outside of the Bi-Co.

A current list of approved courses, divided into List A: Primary Neuroscience and List B: Allied Disciplines, is linked from the Neuroscience Minor website.

Faculty at Haverford

Laura Been
Associate Professor of Psychology

Emily Black
Visiting Assistant Professor of Neuroscience

Rebecca Compton
Professor of Psychology and Director of Neuroscience

Robert Fairman
Professor of Biology

Seol Hee Im
Research Associate

Roshan Jain
Associate Professor of Biology

Patrese Robinson-Drummer
The Prokop Assistant Professor of Neuroscience

Faculty at Bryn Mawr

Dustin Albert
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Laura Grafe
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Cynthia T. Hsu
Visiting Assistant Professor

Crystal M Reynaga
Assistant Professor of Biology

Anjali Thapar
Professor of Psychology

NEUR H100 INTRODUCTION TO NEUROSCIENCE (1.0 Credit)
Patrese Robinson-Drummer
Division: Natural Science
Domain(s): C: Physical and Natural Processes
Neuroscience is an interdisciplinary field that seeks to understand the structure and functions of nervous system. Topics include evolution and development of the nervous system, neuroimaging and anatomy, neurophysiological basis of learning and memory, cognitive-behavioral development, and sensation and perception. Prerequisite(s): This course is not open to students who have previously taken HC Psych 217, HC Psych 260, or BMC Psych 218 (Offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

NEUR H357 FEMINIST NEUROSCIENCE (1.0 Credit)
Megan Massa
Division: Natural Science
Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World; C: Physical and Natural Processes
As societal conceptions of gender and sex change, so to do scientific approaches to neuroendocrinology (the study of hormones and the brain) and sex differences research. In this seminar, we will trace the history of this scientific field before placing it in conversation with feminist and queer theories. Students will utilize close reading, writing, and presentation techniques to consider sociological concepts and reframings of neuroscience. Crosslisted: NEUR. Pre-requisite(s): Psychology 217: Behavioral Neuroscience or BMC equivalent Lottery Preference: 1) Senior psychology majors and senior neuroscience majors, 2) Junior psychology majors and junior neuroscience majors, 3) Senior psychology minors and senior neuroscience minors, 4) Junior psychology minors and junior neuroscience minors, and 5) all other students by class (senior, junior, sophomore; no first-years) (Offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

CHEM H111 CHEMICAL STRUCTURE AND BONDING (1.0 Credit)
Alexander Norquist, Kelly Matz
Division: Natural Science; Quantitative
Domain(s): C: Physical and Natural Processes
Structure and bonding in molecules starting from nuclear and electronic structure of atoms. This course introduces the theories of chemical bonding that rationalize and predict the structures and bulk properties of molecules and materials. It also introduces modern instrumental and computational methods used to study chemical structure and bonding. Three lectures and one lab period per week required. (Offered: Fall 2022)

CHEM H113 INTENSIVE: CHEMICAL STRUCTURE AND BONDING (1.0 Credit)
Kelly Matz, Theresa Gaines
Division: Natural Science; Quantitative
Domain(s): C: Physical and Natural Processes
Structure and bonding in molecules starting from nuclear and electronic structure of atoms. This course introduces the theories of chemical bonding that rationalize and predict the structures and bulk properties of molecules and materials. It also introduces modern instrumental and computational methods used to study chemical structure and bonding. This is a more intensive offering of CHEM 111 designed for students with little or no experience in chemistry. Prerequisite(s): Placement by the Chemistry Department.

(BIOH 200) EVOLUTION, GENETICS & GENOMICS (1.0 Credit)

Foens Peng, Jessica Comstock, Nancy Maas, Rachel Hoang, Shirley Lang

Division: Natural Science

Domain(s): C: Physical and Natural Processes

Three hours of lecture and one laboratory period per week. A one-year course in cellular and molecular biology, Biology 200 considers the cell as a unit of biological activity. Biology 200A discusses the gene as a storehouse of biological information, the flow and transmission of genetic information, and genomics in the context of evolution, as well as the cellular context in which these processes occur. The laboratory introduces the student to cell and molecular biology, genetics and biochemistry. Enrollment per lab section is limited to 28. Preference for a specific lab section will be given to students preregistering for that lab section; students who do not preregister will be assigned on a space available basis. When two sections of the lecture component are offered one lecture section will be limited to 50. Four sections, limited to 35. Prerequisite(s): The prerequisite for Biology 200A is successful completion, with a grade of 2.0 or higher, of a one credit Natural Science course (which includes a laboratory experience) at Haverford, Bryn Mawr or Swarthmore, or instructor consent.

(BIOH 200) EVOLUTION, GENETICS & GENOMICS (1.0 Credit)

Foens Peng, Jessica Comstock, Nancy Maas, Rachel Hoang, Shirley Lang

Division: Natural Science

Domain(s): C: Physical and Natural Processes

Three hours of lecture and one laboratory period per week. A one-year course in cellular and molecular biology, Biology 200 considers the cell as a unit of biological activity. Biology 200A discusses the gene as a storehouse of biological information, the flow and transmission of genetic information, and genomics in the context of evolution, as well as the cellular context in which these processes occur. The laboratory introduces the student to cell and molecular biology, genetics and biochemistry. Enrollment per lab section is limited to 28. Preference for a specific lab section will be given to students preregistering for that lab section; students who do not preregister will be assigned on a space available basis. When two sections of the lecture component are offered one lecture section will be limited to 50. Four sections, limited to 35. Prerequisite(s): The prerequisite for Biology 200A is successful completion, with a grade of 2.0 or higher, of a one credit Natural Science course (which includes a laboratory experience) at Haverford, Bryn Mawr or Swarthmore, or instructor consent.

Offered: Fall 2022

BIOL B202 NEUROBIOLOGY (1.0 Credit)

Cynthia Hsu

Division: Natural Science

Domain(s): C: Physical and Natural Processes

An introduction to the nervous system and its broad contributions to function. The class will explore fundamentals of neural anatomy and signaling, sensory and motor processing and control, nervous system development and examples of complex brain functions. Lecture three hours a week. Prerequisite: One semester of BIOL 110-111 or permission of instructor.

Offered: Fall 2022

MATH H103 INTRODUCTION TO PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS (1.0 Credit)

Timur Akhunov

Division: Natural Science; Quantitative

Domain(s): C: Physical and Natural Processes

Basic concepts and methods of elementary probability and quantitative reasoning, with practical applications. Topics include: sample average and standard deviation, normal curves, regression, expected value and standard error, confidence intervals and hypothesis tests. Crosslisted: Mathematics, Statistics Prerequisite(s): Not open to students who have (a) placed into 121 or higher, (b) taken 118 or higher, (c) taken any other introductory statistics class at Haverford or Bryn Mawr, (d) received a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Statistics exam.

Offered: Fall 2022

MATH H203 STATISTICAL METHODS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS (1.0 Credit)

Lynne Butler

Division: Natural Science; Quantitative

Domain(s): C: Physical and Natural Processes

An introduction to statistical methods used to analyze data in the natural and social sciences. It covers descriptive statistics, the binomial and normal distributions, expected value and variance, confidence intervals and hypothesis testing, comparison of two samples, regression, and analysis of variance. A required computer lab, using R, is taught alongside this course. Crosslisted: Mathematics, Statistics Prerequisite(s): MATH 118 or higher, placement into MATH 121 or higher, or instructor consent. Students who have taken another introductory statistics course at Haverford or Bryn Mawr may only enroll in STAT 203 with instructor consent.

Offered: Fall 2022

ECON H203 STATISTICAL METHODS IN ECONOMICS (1.0 Credit)

Richard Ball

Division: Quantitative; Social Science

Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World

Foundations of statistical inference and data analysis. Three class hours and two lab hours. Prerequisite(s): ECON 104, 105, or 106; Completion of Math 105 or Math 118 at Haverford College (or a comparable course in calculus at another college), or placement into Math 121 or higher.

Offered: Fall 2022
PSYC H100 FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY (1.0 Credit)
Jennifer Lilgendahl, Marilyn Boltz, Samantha Fortin
Division: Social Science
Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World
An introduction to the study of mind and behavior. Topics include biological, cognitive, personality, abnormal, and social psychology, as well as a general consideration of the empirical approach to the study of behavior. This course is a prerequisite for most other 200 and 300 level psychology courses. However, in most cases, this prerequisite may be met with an AP Psychology score of 4 or 5 or IB Psychology credit. Prerequisite(s): Students with AP Psychology credit from high school (and a score of 4 or 5 on the AP exam) have the option to waive the Foundations course and enroll in upper-level courses; this should be done only after consultation with a faculty member in the Psychology Department. Students are welcome to take PSYC 100 even if they have AP Psychology credit from high school (and a score of 4 or 5 on the AP exam).
(Offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

PSYC H200 RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS (1.0 Credit)
Megan Massa, Megan Nadzan
Division: Quantitative; Social Science
Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World; B: Analysis of the Social World, C: Physical and Natural Processes
A general overview of the research methods used in psychological science along with training in the statistical methods used in the field. Activities focus on designing research studies, collecting data, data analysis, and presenting results through written assignments. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 100 or PSYC B105 or Psychology AP Score of 4 or instructor consent Enrollment Limit: 35 Lottery Preference(s): (1) Psychology majors, (2) Neuroscience majors, sophomores, (3) seniors, (4) juniors, (5) first-year students. A general overview of the experimental method and its use in the psychological study of behavior, coupled with in-depth treatment of statistics as applied to psychology research. Lab exercises focus on designing experiments, collecting data, applying statistical methods (using a data analysis software package), and presenting data through written assignments. 90 minutes of lab per week required in addition to lecture. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 100 or PSYC B105 or Psychology AP Score of 4 or instructor consent.
(Offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

PSYC B205 RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS (1.0 Credit)
Anjali Thapar
Division: Quantitative; Social Science
Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World
An introduction to research design, general research methodology, and the analysis and interpretation of data. Emphasis will be placed on issues involved with conducting psychological research. Topics include descriptive and inferential statistics, research design and validity, analysis of variance, and correlation and regression. Each statistical method will also be executed using computers. Lecture three hours, laboratory 90 minutes a week.