

**Psychology 754: Proseminar in Biological Psychology**  
**Fall 2023**

**Instructor:** Karyn Frick, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor

Department of Psychology

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Office hours: By appointment. Please contact me to arrange a time to meet.

Email availability: I am generally available via email from 9 am – 5 pm on weekdays. I check email up until 10 pm on weekdays and at points on weekends, and may answer your question at these times as my schedule allows. However, you should not expect to receive an answer to any emails received after 5 pm until after 9 am the next weekday.

**Class meetings:** Wednesdays, 1-3 pm, Garland 204 (in person)

**Course Description and Learning Outcomes:**

- The learning objectives of this course are for incoming graduate students in the Neuroscience area of Psychology to better understand how graduate school works, discover what areas of neuroscience are studied in the Psychology department, and learn valuable skills essential to success in graduate school and beyond. By the end of the course, you should have learned:
  - How to build a CV that gets you hired after graduation
  - How to find, read, and present empirical literature
  - What aspects of neuroscience research are conducted in Psychology labs at UWM
  - How grant funding works
  - How to write an NIH-style specific aims and research strategy
  - How to budget time and plan for future success
  - How various biases influence the business of science

**Course readings:** Readings will be provided on our Canvas site as the semester progresses

**Course Schedule:**

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Topic</i></b>
Sept. 6	Introductions, what is grad school?, building a CV, how academia works
Sept. 13	Finding, reading, and presenting literature; Frick article presentation
Sept. 20	<b>Article presentations (find your own, circulate by Sept. 17)</b>
Sept. 27	Faculty research presentations (Bowman, Swain, Hannula, Moyer)
Oct. 4	Faculty research presentations (Lopez-Rojas, Georgiou, Morton, Frick); <b>upload Empirical article analysis to Canvas by 11:59 pm on 10/10</b>
Oct. 11	How funding works; how to write an NIH-style proposal
Oct. 18	Writing a Specific Aims page and Research Strategy; <b>upload draft Specific Aims to Canvas by 11:59 pm on 10/23</b>
Oct. 25	Peer review of draft aims; <b>upload revised Specific Aims to Canvas by 11:59 pm on 10/30</b>
Nov. 1	Informal class office hour for questions on Research Strategy; <b>work on writing Research Strategy of NIH proposal</b>
Nov. 8	Planning to succeed (time management, IDPs, getting the most from your advising relationships); <b>upload draft Research Strategy to Canvas by 11:59 pm 11/8</b>
Nov. 15	No class (Society for Neuroscience meeting)
Nov. 22	No class (Thanksgiving)
Nov. 29	Peer review of draft Research Strategy
Dec. 6	<b>Article presentations</b> , Bias and diversity in science
Dec. 13	Semester reflections, planning for next semester; <b>upload FINAL Specific Aims and Research Strategy to Canvas by 11:59 pm on 12/14</b>

Grade assessment:

<u>Learning objective</u>	<u>Evaluation tool</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>% of grade</u>
Demonstrate ability to find and clearly present empirical literature	Article presentations (x2)	17	17
Learn to read, summarize, and analyze an empirical article	Empirical article analysis	5	5
Develop testable ideas for grant funding	Drafts of specific aims and research strategy sections	Aims (10) Res Strat (15)	25
Provide constructive feedback in peer review	Quality of feedback on draft a specific aims and research strategy	5	5
Incorporate feedback into final drafts	Final specific aims and research strategy submissions	Aims (10) Res Strat (23)	33
Demonstrate interest in course materials, respect for other's time, and high level of effort to produce quality work	Timely and high-quality participation in class, effort given to class assignments and activities	15	15
	Total	100	100

**There is NO final exam (or any exams) in this course.**

COVID-19 and other illnesses:

- Please do not come to class if you are feeling sick, or have been diagnosed with or are positive for COVID-19. Individuals who develop a fever (temperature of 100.4° or higher) or have had other symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be evaluated by a healthcare professional before coming to campus.
- If you must miss class due to illness or COVID-19, but are feeling well enough to participate, then please email me ASAP so I can send you a virtual link for class.
- Current University COVID-19 policies can be found here: [https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2022/08/COVID-Syllabus-Statement\\_F22.pdf](https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2022/08/COVID-Syllabus-Statement_F22.pdf)
- Please follow these policies and avoid coming to class if you: (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider; and/or (2) have a positive COVID-19 test; and/or (3) otherwise is recommended to isolate or quarantine by the CDC.
- Coronavirus FAQs can be reviewed here: <https://uwm.edu/coronavirus/>

University Policies:

- Information on university policies on participation by students with disabilities, accommodation for religious observances, complaint procedures, grade appeal procedures, and other standing policies (e.g., sexual harassment, incompletes) can be found here: <https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf>

Accommodations:

- If you have a documented disability and need accommodations to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible. I will need a copy of your official Accommodation Plan. If you have one, it will be emailed to me by the Accessibility Resource Center (**Mitchell 115**, <http://uwm.edu/arc/>, phone 414-229-6287).

Students in Need

- Any student who faces challenges securing their food, housing, or technology, or is struggling with mental, physical, or emotional health, and believes this may affect their performance in the course is

urged to contact the Dean of Students office for support (<https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/>). Here is a link to the UWM food pantry if needed: <https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/assistance/food-pantry/>.

- Please notify me of such challenges if you are comfortable doing so, particularly as they pertain to your performance in this course. This will enable me to provide resources to support you and can connect you to the Dean of Students office as well.
- However, I am not only your instructor for this course, but am also the Neuroscience area head. I would encourage you to discuss any challenges you face in this PhD program with your faculty advisor first because they are well positioned to help you navigate the many demands of research, teaching, and life. However, if you wish to have another perspective or don't feel comfortable confiding in your faculty advisor, then I would be happy to talk with you and help you find solutions.

#### Use of AI to Complete Coursework:

- An important aspect of your graduate training is learning to read the literature, synthesize it, come up with novel ideas, and be able to write about them in a compelling, concise, and persuasive way. Therefore, you should NOT use AI tools to do these tasks for you, or you will not learn these valuable skills. Thus, your work in this class must be completed by your own brain, and all writing completed for this course must be communicated in your own words. Content should not be copied directly from the textbook, the web, or any other secondary source, and cannot be generated using an AI-application. This is considered plagiarism and would have to be reported to the Dean of Students as academic misconduct. I can run your writing through AI detection software, so do have tools to detect AI use.
- Does that mean that there's no role for AI in your research? No, there may very well be good reasons to use AI for various aspects of your research. However, if you do not learn the basic skills needed to do your research without AI, then you won't have a solid foundation upon which to add AI. Thus, I expect that all work for this proseminar will be done by you and other humans.

#### Academic Misconduct:

- In this course, we will strictly adhere to UWM's policy regarding academic misconduct. UWM does not tolerate academic misconduct, in any form. Cheating and plagiarism are examples of academic misconduct. Here is the university's definition: "an act in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation, uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise, forges or falsifies academic documents or records, intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others, engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance, or assists other students in any of these acts." Information about the procedures that are followed when a student is suspected of academic misconduct can be found on this web page: <https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/academic-misconduct/>