

Course Description

Prerequisite: PSYC1100 (Introduction to Psychology), Brain & Behavior or equivalent

This course is a general survey of current theories, research, and methods in affective neuroscience. This course will introduce students to the 'multi-level' approach to understanding social and emotional behavior, which includes analysis of social and cognitive mechanisms, as well as the neural systems that underlie these processes.

Course Overview:

The goal of this course is to examine the core principles and methods of affective neuroscience. Relevant theories and literature will be discussed, and the mechanisms underlying students' own individual levels of social and emotional functioning will be explored. Students will learn how the human brain supports complex affective processes, including social intelligence, theory of mind, emotional attachment, empathy, and moral reasoning.

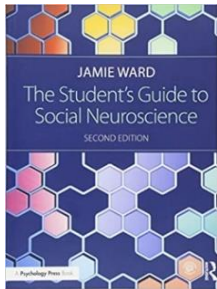
Course Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the student will

1. Explain the multi-level approach to understanding human behavior and its relevance to understanding emotional processes and behavior in particular.
2. Describe current theories relating brain functions related to affective components of mental processes and behavior.
3. Demonstrate critical thinking by performing tasks that will challenge their understanding regarding the subject matter and its relevance to their own behavior.
4. Analyze established research and theories through a critical lens, and describe the unique challenges researchers face relating emotional and social behavior to neural processes in the brain.
5. Apply what has been learned to themselves by describing the brain functions underlying their current and desired levels of social and emotional functioning.

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2025
SYLLABUS

PSYC 4355 Affective Neuroscience; 3 hrs.

Department of	Psychology	School of	Liberal Arts & Sciences
Instructor Name	Dr. Matthew Harrison		
Office Location	Founders Hall 201E		
Office Phone	310-709-4880		
Email Address	Matthew.Harrison@untDallas.edu		
Office Hours	T, Th: 10am-1:00pm W: 10am-12pm		
Course Format/Structure	Face to Face		
Classroom Location	DAL 1, 208		
Class Meeting Days & Times	Mon, Wed: 2:30pm – 3:50pm		
Course Catalog Description	This course is a general survey of current theories, research, and methods in affective neuroscience. This course will introduce students to the ‘multi-level’ approach to understanding social and emotional behavior, which includes analysis of social and cognitive mechanisms, as well as the neural systems that underlie these processes.		
Prerequisites	PSYC 1110 Introduction to Psychology, PSYC 3310 Brain & Behavior (Introduction to Neuroscience)		
Required Text	Ward, J. (2012) The Student’s Guide to Social Neuroscience (2nd ed.). Psychology Press. ISBN-13: 978-1138908628 ISBN-10: 1138908622		
Recommended Text & References	NA		
Access to Learning Resources	UNT Dallas Library: Phone: (972) 338-1616;		

	<p>Website URL: http://www.untDallas.edu/library</p> <p>UNT Dallas Bookstore:</p> <p>Phone: (972) 780-3652;</p> <p>Website URL: http://www.untDallas.edu/bookstore</p> <p>Email: untDallas@bkstr.com</p>
<p>Canvas Resources</p> <p>Supported Browsers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chrome 67 & 68 • Firefox 60 & 61 • Flash 29, 30 (for audio/video) • Respondus Lockdown Browser • Safari 10, 11 <p>Supported Devices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPhone • Android • Chromebook <p><i>Note: Tablet users can use the Canvas app</i></p> <p>Screen Readers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoiceOver (Safari) • JAWS (Internet Explorer) • NVDA (Firefox) <p><i>Note: There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome</i></p>	<p>Getting Help with Canvas:</p> <p>Canvas 24/7 Phone Support for Students: 1-833-668-8634</p> <p>Canvas Help Resources:</p> <p>Canvas Student Guide - https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701</p> <p>For additional assistance, contact Student Assistance (UNT Dallas Distance Learning):</p> <p>DAL1, Room 157 Phone: 972-338-5580 Email: distancelearning@untDallas.edu</p> <p>If you are working with Canvas 24/7 Support to resolve a technical issue, please keep me updated on the troubleshooting progress.</p> <p>If you have a course-related issue (e.g., course content, assignment trouble, quiz difficulties), please contact me during office hours or by email.</p>

Course Overview

Course Goals/Overview:

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Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

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Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated via email and Canvas announcements.

Timeline	Topic	Readings/Assignments/Exams
Week 1 Jan 13 - 19	Syllabus and Course Overview, Introduction to social neuroscience	Read the syllabus Read Chapter 1 Chapter 1 Practice Quiz (EC)
Week 2 Jan 20 – 26	The methods of social neuroscience	Read Chapter 2 Assignment #1
Week 3 Jan 17 - Feb 2	Evolutionary origins of social intelligence and culture, Review for Exam #1	Read Chapter 3 Assignment #2
Week 4 Feb 3 – 9	Emotion and motivation	Read Chapter 4 Exam #1 (Feb 5) Chaps 1-3
Week 5 Feb 10 – 16	Reading faces and bodies	Read Chapter 5 Assignment #3
Week 6 Feb 17 – 23	Understanding others	Read Chapter 6 Assignment #4
Week 7 Feb 24 - Mar 2	Understanding others (cont.), Review for Exam #2	Presentation Topic & Date Selection Assignment #5

Timeline	Topic	Readings/Assignments/Exams
Week 8 Mar 3 – 9	Interacting with others	Read Chapter 7 Exam #2 (Mar 5) Chaps 4-6
Week 9 Mar 10 - 16	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS
Week 10 Mar 17 – 23	Interacting with others (cont.)	Assignment #6
Week 11 Mar 24 – 30	Relationships	Read Chapter 8 Assignment #7
Week 12 Mar 31 - Apr 6	Developmental social neuroscience, Review for Exam #3	Read Chapter 9 Assignment #8
Week 13 Apr 7 – 13	Morality and antisocial behavior	Read Chapter 10 Exam #3 (Apr 9) Chaps 7-9
Week 14 Apr 14 - 20	Student presentations	Read Chapter 11 Assignment #9
Week 15 Apr 21 - 27	Student presentations (week 2)	Assignment #10 Topic Discussion
Week 16 Apr 28 - May 4	Student presentations (week 3) Review for Final Exam	Read Chapter 19 Topic Discussion
Finals Day May 7 (Wed)	Final Exam (In-class, 2-4pm)	Exam #4 (May 7) Chaps 10-11 & prior

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course:

- **Exams:** Four exams, each worth 10% of your grade (cumulatively worth 40% of your grade). The dates of the exams are given in the course schedule and each will cover material from the textbook and lectures discussed prior to the exam. The fourth exam will be the final exam of the course. Exams will take place in-class.
- **Student Topic Presentation:** Each student will submit a presentation on video, discussing one of the topics covered in class, and including a summary of at least one research article not discussed in class, relevant to their topic. This presentation will be worth 25% of your final grade.

- **Weekly Assignments:** Ten assignments, cumulatively worth 20% of your grade. These assignments will vary from week to week, and will take the form of:
 - Online multiple-choice quizzes.
 - Short writing assignments, submitted online through Turnitin.
 - Responses to discussions & student presentations.
- **In-class Discussions** – Participation in in-class discussion sessions will be worth 15% of your grade. Discussion sessions will usually occur on Wednesdays, but may be held any time class meets.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Exams	4 exams x 10% each	40%
Student Topic Presentation	25%	25%
Weekly Assignments	10 assignments x 2% each	20%
Discussions	Cumulative (15% total)	15%
Total		100%

Grade Determination:

A = 90% or better
 B = 80 – 89 %
 C = 70 – 79 %
 D = 60 – 69 %
 F = less than 60%

Course-Specific Policies

Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT: Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, may not be used for discussion board posts (which are meant to reflect your own thoughts, opinions, and knowledge) or any assignment which does not explicitly state ChatGPT may be used. However, you may use AI language models (including ChatGPT) for assignments which specifically state that AI language models/ChatGPT is permitted, as long as it is used with appropriate citation. If you are in doubt as to whether you are using AI language models appropriately in this course, I encourage you to discuss your situation with me. Examples of citing AI language models are available at: <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

When use of AI language models is allowed, you are responsible for fact checking statements composed by the AI language models.

Attendance and Participation Policy: The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Please refer to Policy 7.005 Student Attendance at <https://www.untDallas.edu/hr/upol>. I do not take attendance. However, I strongly encourage you to regularly attend as you will not know which day of the week your quiz or discussion will take place. If you are not in attendance on the day of a quiz or discussion, and you have not contacted the instructor in advance and with a valid university-approved excuse (see **Late Work/ Make-up policy**) then you will receive zero points for the assignment.

Grading Timeline: While it is your responsibility to turn assignments in on time and be functional for working in the online class. In general, assignments are graded and posted on the course grade on Canvas within seven days of the assignment due date.

Late Work/ Make-up policy: All assignments should be submitted online via Canvas. No email submission will be accepted. **Students who miss an assignment must document an illness or family emergency to become eligible for turning in assignments without penalty upon the instructor's approval.** Such documentation must be provided within 3 days of the missed assignment due date. Failure to do so will result in an assigned zero. In general, **requests will be approved only with a university-approved excuse and documentation.** Examples include documented funeral attendance, religious holidays, and illness (See student handbook). The qualifying student will be given 5 calendar days following the missed date. Beyond 10 days period, except under extreme circumstances, no late assignments will be allowed and a zero will be assigned. Any excuse for failure to meet the assignment due date must cover the entire duration of that unit (i.e., approximately 10 days). Internet failure/outage/etc. is not a valid excuse. If Canvas is experiencing system errors, you must contact Canvas support and email me your ticket number.

Late assignments without the University-approved document will receive a 5-percent deduction per day beginning at 12:01 am after the deadline. A late submission beyond the availability date (specified on Canvas) will not be accepted.

Be sure to make backup files of your work. An easy way to do this is to send yourself an email with the file attached. Since participation must involve classmates, missed participation cannot be made up once the corresponding week has ended.

Final Grades: Grades will not be changed after final grades for the semester are submitted, except in cases of documented errors or grading errors. Students should retain all returned assignments until students have confirmed that the final grade has been computed and reported accurately. Please note that students must earn the exact number of points that correspond with the percentage associated with a particular letter grade to earn that grade. Grades are earned not given.

Email: Please include your full name and the specific situation you wish to address. In the subject line, please place the name of the course, the course number, and the section. (Example: PSYC 4640-001) for proper follow-ups. E-mails without this information may be considered junk by Outlook and filtered into the spam folder.

Electronic Devices and Online Policies: This course requires access to the Internet; preferably high-speed internet from a computer. It is not recommended to use a smartphone, tablet, or e-reader to complete your online exams, as they may not display correctly. It is the student's responsibility to be functional for an online portion of the class.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit **Section 504 Coordinator, Cynthia Suarez, at 972-338-1777 or email cynthia.suarez@untDallas.edu**. For additional information see [Disability Services Office](#). You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDisability@untDallas.edu or Building PL, room 1104.

Disruptive Behavior in an Instructional Setting:

Students are expected to engage with the instructor and other students in this class in a respectful and civil manner at all times to promote a classroom environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. Students who engage in disruptive behavior will be directed to leave the classroom. A student who is directed to leave class due to disruptive behavior is not permitted to return to class until the student meets with a representative from the Dean of Students Office. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the Dean of Students before class meets again and to provide the instructor confirmation of the meeting. A student who is directed to leave class will be assigned an unexcused absence for that class period and any other classes the student misses as a result of not meeting with the Dean of Students. The student is responsible for material missed during all absences and the instructor is not responsible for providing missed material. In addition, the student will be assigned a failing grade for assignments, quizzes or examinations missed and will not be allowed to make up the work.

The Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (Policy 7.001) describes disruption as the obstructing or interfering with university functions or activity, including any behavior that interferes with students, faculty, or staff access to an appropriate educational environment. Examples of disruptive behavior that may result in a student being directed to leave the classroom include but are not limited to: failure to comply with a reasonable directive of University officials, action or combination of actions that unreasonably interfere with, hinder, obstruct, or prevents the right of others to freely participate, threatening, assaulting, or causing harm to oneself or another, uttering any words or performing any acts that cause physical injury, or threaten any individual, or interfere with any individual's rightful

actions, and harassment. You are encouraged to read the Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct for more information related to behaviors that could be considered disruptive.

Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement:

The University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser, and information on any assistive technology being used. [Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement is also provided.](#)

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e., MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Course Evaluation Policy:

The student's evaluation of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you with a chance to comment on how this class is taught. Therefore, students' evaluations are considered as an important part of student participation in this class.

Incomplete Policy

The grade of Incomplete (I) is reserved for students who have successfully completed the majority of the coursework, but due to circumstances, are unable to complete the rest of the coursework. An incomplete will be granted following the University's policy. If an incomplete is granted, it is the student's responsibility to complete the coursework in accordance with the University policy. If an incomplete is not granted, the student is responsible for all of the work assigned in the course during the current semester.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's Code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to [UNT Dallas' Student Code of Academic Integrity](#) for complete provisions of this code. Refer to the [Student Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct](#). Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Online Attendance and Participation:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Canvas classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed on the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions are essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Canvas, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, learning activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to [UNT Dallas' Registrar](#) for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to inform the instructor immediately, upon your return, of the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course.

Inclement Weather and Online Classes:

Online classes may or may not be affected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Online "Netiquette":

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages, and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper "netiquette" (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no "flaming" messages (angry, personal attacks). Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to [UNT Dallas Student Code of Conduct](#). Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication before submission.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions that violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Technology Assistance:

In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements listed on the first page of the syllabus.

If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using the Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical difficulties, first, notify your instructor. If the problem is still not resolved, call Student Assistance (Distance Learning) phone at (972)338-5580 (email:

distancelearning@untDallas.edu, see the Online Resources in the syllabus). Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

[UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements](#)

[Canvas Instructure Supported & Unsupported Operating Systems](#)