Course Name:Topics in Neuroscience
Course Prefix: NEUR
Course Number: 4900
             Submitted by (Name & E-Mail):  Matthew Schmolesky, mschmolesky@weber.edu

Current Date:  8/30/2013
College: Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department:   Neuroscience
From Term: Fall  2013

Substantive

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| new   | Current Course Subject N/ACurrent Course Number  |

Variable Course Number

**New/Revised Course Information:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject:  NEUR             Course Number: 4900 | Check all that apply: *This is for courses already approved for gen ed.    Use a* [*different form*](http://documents.weber.edu/catalog/forms.htm) *for proposing a new gen ed designation.*DV  CA  HU  LS  PS  SS EN  AI  QL  TA  TB  TC  TD  TE |

Course Title: Topics in Neuroscience

Abbreviated Course Title: Topics in Neuroscience

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| --- | --- |
| Course Type:  | LEC |

Credit Hours:    **or** if variable hours:  2  to 3

Contact Hours: Lecture 30-45  Lab    Other

Repeat Information:  Limit 3   Max Hrs 6

Grading Mode:  standard

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| --- | --- |
| This course is/will be: | a required course in a major programa required course in a minor programa required course in a 1- or 2- year programelective |

Prerequisites/Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: NEUR 2050 or PSY 2730 or consent of instructor.

Course description (exactly as it will appear in the catalog, including prerequisites):

This course offers an in-depth exploration of selected topics and issues in the discipline. The prerequisite may be waived or replaced by an equivalent at the discretion of the instructor in consultation with the Neuroscience Program Director. The course may be taken up to three times for a maximum of six credit hours. Prerequisite: NEUR 2050 or PSY 2730 or consent of instructor.

**Justification** for the new course or for changes to an existing course. (Note: Justification should emphasize academic rationale for the change or new course. This is particularly important for courses requesting upper-division status.)

Herein we propose the creation of a NEUR 4900 Topics in Neuroscience course (2-3 credits). This upper division course provides in-depth instruction on selected neuroscience topics (e.g. traumatic brain injury; computational neuroscience and robotics, etc.). Most, if not all, students interested in neuroscience will wish to complete an upper division seminar-style course. The course proposed here would offer faculty across different departments (e.g. CEET, HPHP, HTHS, PSY, ZOOL) a venue to offer such a class from their area of expertise.
Currently students can choose to do so through PSY4900 Selected Topics in Psychology or ZOOL 4900 Topics in Zoology. However, faculty from other departments (e.g. health sciences, computer science, botany, human performance and health promotion, art) may be excellent candidates for a neuroscience topics course, but cannot teach PSY or ZOOL courses. Moreover, in some cases (e.g. HTHS) there is no upper topics course in the potential mentor’s department. In other cases (e.g. Electronics Engineering Technology), a course may exist (e.g. CEET 4900 Special Topics), but the course prefix does not signify the core focus of the coursework (i.e. neuroscience). Thus, creation of a NEUR 4900 course permits students to take an upper division topics in neuroscience course with a wider pool of potential instructors across different departments at the 2 or 3 credit load.

**INFORMATION PAGE**for substantive proposals only

1. Did this course receive unanimous approval within the Department?

true

If not, what are the major concerns raised by the opponents?

2. If this is a new course proposal, could you achieve the desired results by revising an existing course within your department or by requiring an existing course in another department?

No other course in the Neuroscience Program or offered through other departments resolves the issues described in the justification section.

3. How will the proposed course differ from similar offerings by other departments? Comment on any subject overlap between this course and topics generally taught by other departments, even if no similar courses are currently offered by the other departments. Explain any effects that this proposal will have on program requirements or enrollments in other department. Please forward letters (email communication is sufficient) from all departments that you have identified above stating their support or opposition to the proposed course.

The proposed course is similar in title but not scope or content to the “selected topics” courses offered by various departments. Creation of this NEUR 4900 course will allow students to take a topical neuroscience course from faculty members from a wide variety of departments. Faculty and departments may still choose to teach a neuroscience related topical course under an existing prefix at their discretion (e.g. PSY 4900 Topics in Psychology: Environmental Neurotoxins and Nervous System/Mental Disorders). Since only one or two upper division neuroscience-related topical courses are taught per year, we anticipate only a minimal impact on SCH flow. Thus, while the course will not have a major impact on enrollments, it offers an extremely valuable option for faculty and students in different departments to engage in a neuroscience topics course.

4. Is this course required for certification/accreditation of a program?

no

If so, a statement to that effect should appear in the justification and supporting documents should accompany this form.

5. **For course proposals**, e-mail a syllabus to Faculty Senate which should be sufficiently detailed that the committees can determine that the course is at the appropriate level and matches the description. **There should be an indication of the amount and type of outside activity required in the course (projects, research papers, homework, etc.)**.

