Cornell University, BION 4110: **Neuroscience Journal Club for Undergraduates.**

**Time and place:** Monday 4:30 – 5:30 pm, W358 Mudd Hall

**Instructor:** Carl D. Hopkins, W263 Mudd Hall, cdh8@cornell.edu

**Website:** [https://courses.cit.cornell.edu/bionb4110/](https://courses.cit.cornell.edu/bionb4110/)

**Undergraduate TA:**
Daniel Acker, dwa44@cornell.edu

**Office Hours:**
TA Monday 5:45 – 6:30 pm, W358 Mudd Hall

**Carl Hopkins office hours:** Tuesday 3-5 or by apt.

**Description:**
This Journal Club is intended for Biology undergraduates who wish to become familiar with the scientific literature in modern neurobiology and behavior by learning to read, analyze, understand, and present summaries of original research papers. Meetings will be held once per week during the regular academic semester. Participating students will select and prepare at least one oral review of a recent journal article and assist in leading a class discussion on the topic. Undergraduate TAs will be available to give advice and help with the selection and interpretation of papers. The subject matter will cover a diversity of fields: neuroscience, developmental neurobiology, sensory systems, behavioral genetics, cell and molecular neurobiology, behavioral ecology and ethology.

**Learning Objectives:**
Outcome 1: Students will learn how to read, analyze, understand, and orally summarize a recent scientific paper in the subject areas of behavior and neuroscience.

Outcome 2: Students will learn about the structure of a typical research paper in neuroscience or behavior.

Outcome 3: Students will learn strategies for making effective oral presentations using slides and graphics and demonstrate creativity for engaging audience participation and discussion.

Outcome 4: Students will learn to work in groups.

**Recommended Journals:**
Other Neuroscience Journals:  [http://redwood.berkeley.edu/i-stevenson/neuro_journals.html](http://redwood.berkeley.edu/i-stevenson/neuro_journals.html)
This is a detailed list that includes a link to the journal website, the publisher, the impact factor, the numbers of articles per year, whether it is a for-profit or not-for-profit organization, etc. Another, even more comprehensive list is found on the Psychology Wiki [http://psychology.wikia.com/wiki/List_of_neuroscience_journals](http://psychology.wikia.com/wiki/List_of_neuroscience_journals)
But few of the entries on this list are actually filled in. Treat it as a list of journal titles.
Washington University St. Louis has a website of Neuroscience Journals at [http://thalamus.wustl.edu/journals.html](http://thalamus.wustl.edu/journals.html)


Sources for News and Reviews of Recent Articles:
Faculty of 1000 Article Recommendations:  [http://f1000.com/prime/recommendations](http://f1000.com/prime/recommendations)
Faculty of 1000 Neuroscience Article recs:  [http://f1000.com/prime/recommendations/neurosc](http://f1000.com/prime/recommendations/neurosc)
Cornell Chronicle:  [http://www.news.cornell.edu/](http://www.news.cornell.edu/)
(reports on Science Discoveries in the news)
Science and Nature and many other journals have news stories about recent articles in neuroscience.

Evaluation:
Grading will be S/U or Letter based on attendance, online questions and the completion of your assigned presentation. Presenters need to forward us their chosen paper and a list of questions one week in advance. Presenters should meet with the faculty at least once to review the presentation and the content of the paper. Students must attend a minimum of 11 of the 14 weekly classes to pass this course. Students will receive feedback from your peers and the faculty who attend your presentation and Q&A. This is for your own learning and will not be used in your evaluation.