Medical Neuroscience (PIL) – Course Policy

Course Objectives:

Teach the structure and function of the central nervous system and peripheral nervous system with an emphasis on clinical relevance. Teach students to identify symptoms associated with injury, stroke or common disease entities in the central and peripheral nervous system. Teach students to identify common neurological problems to provide the necessary background for Pathology and prepare them for Board Exams.

General Goal:

To obtain a basic working knowledge, from the subcellular to gross level, of the relationship between the structural and functional aspects of the human nervous system, particularly the CNS. Be able to apply this knowledge to the solution of clinical problems. In meeting this general goal, students are expected to meet the following objectives:

1. Understand the basic structure of tissues comprising the nervous system; including how those components maintain the functional integrity of the CNS normally.
2. Acquire a basic knowledge of the gross anatomical structure and organization of the brain, spinal cord, and intimately related structures as well as blood supply. This, in conjunction with an understanding of the functional organization, is critical to the differential diagnosis subsequent to lesion/disease.
3. Understand how the organization and functioning of the nervous system allows us to function as individuals and interact with our environment.
4. Become familiar with the variety of factors and influences that disrupt normal CNS function and how you can distinguish among them.
5. Understand the basic embryogenesis and postnatal ontogeny of the human CNS, as well as the factors that affect (both negatively and positively) different developmental periods.
6. Recognize the potential for functional recoveries and the mechanisms that contribute to plasticity of the CNS. Understand the importance of early diagnosis and intervention.
7. Learn to appreciate the limitations in our current ability to relate function to structure and the need for continued research if we are ever to restore the devastating loss of central nervous system function.
8. Understand that different perspectives on brain function strongly influence how one views mental illness, stress related disorders, gender differences, etc. Mood, personality and thought processing, the neurobiology of the individual.

Recommended Books:

The following books will be referred all along the resource sessions:

Recommended as an easier book with clear illustrations and clinical examples:
- Young and Young. Basic Clinical Neuroanatomy. 2nd Edition. Williams & Wilkins 2007
Recommended as a more complex and detailed source:

Online Resources:

1. Course Website
You can access the course website at the following URL:
http://neurobio.drexelmed.edu/education/pil/neuro/
Parts of this website are password protected. This website contains basic information about the course, links to key course resources (slide atlas, tutorials, quizzes, diagrams...), including our Blackboard Site, and a F.A.Q. that provides on-going important information about the course.

2. Blackboard Learn Site
The PIL Neuroscience BlackBoard Learn course page is accessible via a link from our main website, or directly using the following URL:
https://learn.dcollege.net/
The Blackboard Learn site contains Case Based Resources that are very important to prepare for self-assessments and exams.
At the beginning of each case, a folder will be activated and a number of resources relevant to the case will be progressively released. This will include a guide to study resources related to the case and how to prepare for the self-assessment, some videos to review lab material, self-study material, and the self-assessment itself. Passing a self-assessment exam before the end of the course will be worse 1 grade point. There will be 6 self-assessment exams, so 6 grade points in total will be obtained.

Exam Information:

There will be 3 exam sessions. The 2nd and 3rd exams will be cumulative.
Exams will consist of written and practical multiple choice questions and essay questions.

The total number of possible points in the course will be 312.
- 1st exam: 90 points (practical 30; written 50; essay 10).
- 2nd exam: 90 points (practical 30; written 50; essay 10).
- 3rd exam: 120 points (practical 30; written 60; essay 30).
- Self-assessment exams (6 exams) in Blackboard Learn: 6 points (for passing these exams before the end of the course).
- TBL Neuroimaging session: 6 points (IRAT 3; GRAT 1; Applications 2).

Each question in the course will be worth a point, whether it is on a written exam or a practical exam.
Each short essay will be worse 10 points. There will be one essay in the 1st and 2nd exams and 3 essays in the 3rd exam.

Self-Assessment Exams:
At the end of each case, a self-assessment exam will become available to you in Blackboard Learn (https://learn.dcollege.net/). There will be a total of 6 self-assessment exams. These self-assessments will consist of 30 questions related to the material presented during the case. **Passing these 6 self-assessments before the end of the course will be worse a total of 6 points towards your grade.** These self-assessments are meant to serve as helpful reviews for you after you have spent some time studying the material covered in a case. They contain questions that are similar in format and content to questions that will be on your actual exams. They are timed. They can be taken a maximum of two times (only the best grade counts). The passing grade for a self-assessment exam is 70% (21 of 30 questions). **If you do not pass these self-assessment exams before the end of the course you will lose 6 points from your total grade in Neuroscience.**

**You may not copy, save or share any images or questions from the self-assessment exams**

In order to take the self assessments, you must install the Respondus Lockdown Browser into your computer. It can be downloaded at: [http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/information.pl?ID=986712485](http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/information.pl?ID=986712485)

**Grading:**

- Final averages below 65% are likely to be Unsatisfactory.
- Averages between 65-70% are likely to receive a Marginal Unsatisfactory.
- An average of 70% or above will be a passing grade.
- The course is pass/fail.

**Remediation:**

Students who receive a grade of Unsatisfactory (U) or Marginal Unsatisfactory (MU) in Neuroscience are referred to the Student Promotions Committee for review of their academic record. If the student has few or no deficiencies in other courses, the deficiencies in Neuroscience can usually be remediated as follows:

Students who receive a U must take and pass an approved summer course in the failed subject or repeat the course the following year. A remedial summer course in Neuroscience is offered online by our department, and several other medical schools offer residential summer courses.

Students who receive an MU must take and pass a written remediation exam. Details about the remediation of the comprehensive exam can be found in the PIL Course Policy Document on the PIL website.

A student who fails the remediation exam must take and pass an approved summer course, or repeat the course the following year (see above).