

**THE BRAIN IN TEXT AND FILM**  
**PSYCH 472, NEUR 461 SPRING 2013**

**DR. JANE FLINN**

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE. The text is *Mirroring People*, by Iacoboni, which will be referred to as MP. It discusses the discovery of mirror neurons in the brain, and their role in behavior. The films selected are ones that I have enjoyed watching and frequently have not had time to show, or only to show in part, in classes.

Students will be expected to present part of 1 chapter from MP. Presentations should be ~ 15 mins in length. A paper, either discussing the implications of either mirror neurons, or one of the films, is required.

For the presentation., you do not need to cover every last point in your section. Emphasize the key points. Slides should have some explanatory text, but not be too dense and must not contain sections taken directly from the book, except for a short section in quotes. Sometimes internet movies can illustrate a point.

This schedule is subject to change if discussion of a topic moves faster or more slowly than anticipated.

**THE MOTOR SYSTEM, NORMAL AND ANBNORMAL ASPECTS**

JAN 24 MP Chapter 1 (1-12, JMF) , the discovery of mirror neurons, which respond when someone else moves. Selection from Brain # 2, Normal Movement.

JAN 31 Parkinson's is a motor disease. My Father, my Brother and Me. (Film). Chapt 12 ->30

FEB 7 Drug abuse led to PD in young people. The Frozen Addicts. (Film)

FEB 14 Deep brain stimulation has been used to treat Parkinson's. Sybil's Story. (Film) MP Chap 1 30- 46;

FEB 21 Discussion of films, MP Chap 2

**FEB 28 FUNCTIONS OF THE CORTEX**

Phantom Limbs, Capgrass syndrome. Selections from: *Secrets of the Brain*, *Phantoms in the Brain*. (Ramachandran) (Films)

Segment from Brain #6 on prosopagnosia. Face Blind, Oliver Sachs .

**MAR 7 JUST FOR FUN**

How Does the Brain Work? general film on the brain. MP Chaps 3,4

MAR 14 SPRING BREAK

MAR 21 What are Dreams? (Film.)

MAR 28 STRESS AND THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM  
Stress, Portrait of a Killer (Sapolsky) (Film).

APR 4 Discussion of Sapolsky and MP Chaps 5,6 (7)

APR 11 MP Chaps (7), 8,9 .

APR 18 BRAIN DYSFUNCTION, EPILEPSY  
Half a Brain, (Film)

APR 25 MP Chaps 10, 11. Discussion of MP as a whole

MAY 2 THE PLACEBO EFFECT  
Placebo Effect, Penn & Teller, Drs Goldacre, Mackay, Hamilton. Ariely. (Films).

MAY 9

**TAKEHOME PAPER DUE.**

Grading Policy:

25 % for presentation  
25% general discussion  
25% for weekly quizzes  
25% paper

Office Hours: Tu 3-4, TH 4-5 DKH 2022

Th 4

Call 993-4107 or 370-1406 for an appointment at other times.

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Students with disabilities should present documentation to me and appropriate arrangements will be made.