COURSE OVERVIEW
The primary goal of this lab is for students to learn brain and eye structure locations with some understanding of related function. The class will start with a brief overview of neuroscience topics, and then will move towards sheep brain and eye dissections.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION
Material covered in lab will be the basis of quizzes and exams, so students are highly encouraged to attend lab. Attendance during dissections is especially essential because these will be your only chance to practice with the sheep brain and eye. It is not possible to repeat missed dissections during a later lab. If you know you will be absent ahead of time, contact me and I may be able to arrange for you to attend another lab section. You are responsible for all announcements and any syllabus modifications made in class each week whether you are present or not.

DRESS CODE
You must wear close-toed shoes and pants, avoid baggy clothing/loose jewelry, and have hair pulled back on dissection days due to the university’s Environmental Health & Safety standards. If you are not appropriately dressed, you will not be able to participate.

COURSE COMPONENTS
Practical Exams (40%): There will be 2 practical exams consisting of identification and questions regarding pinned brain structures. There are no make-ups for a missed practical unless you have obtained approval prior to the date missed. Emergencies must be reported ASAP. The nature of the exam does not allow it to be reproduced or preserved. Practical 1 = 15%; Practical 2 (cumulative) = 25%.

Quizzes (2 x 10% each = 20%): There will be 2 quizzes based on lecture material covered in class. These quizzes will not require identification of brain structures. Questions will be in the form of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blanks, labeling a diagram, and/or short answer. Quizzes begin at the start of class and will be timed.

Lab Reports (4 x 10% each = 40%): Lab reports will be started in class, then completed at home and submitted online through Blackboard. They will be due at the start of the following class.
TECHNOLOGY
Access to GMU student email and the myMason Portal for Blackboard are required to participate successfully in this course. Important information, such as the syllabus, slides, and assignments, will be posted and updated on our course Blackboard page. Grades will also be posted on Blackboard and you are expected to regularly check your grades and let me know of any problems before the semester is over.

DEADLINES
Any lab report submitted late will be docked 10% for each week following its due date. Late exams/quizzes will only be permitted with medical or similar documentation. Students who provide written medical or similar documentation explaining an inability to complete course requirements for an extended period of time may be allowed to make up certain types and amounts of coursework. Please e-mail me as soon as possible. Students are responsible for checking the GMU Academic Calendar and making sure they are available to complete coursework throughout the entire semester.

ACCOMMODATIONS
If you are a student with a documented disability and need academic accommodations, please speak with me as soon as possible, and contact Disability Services (709-993-2474; ods@gmu.edu). All academic accommodations must be arranged through this office. For assistance with any kind of psychological/life problem or crisis situation, students are encouraged to contact Counseling & Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu). I can help with referrals for students with particular counseling needs.

HONOR CODE
Students in this course are expected to behave at all times in a manner consistent with the GMU Honor System and Code. If you are using someone else’s work as a source, you must cite it. Violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated in this course and will be immediately reported according to GMU procedures. The instructor reserves the right to use software to determine the extent to which the work is the student’s. The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade for the assignment to any student found guilty of an honor code violation. You may view the current Honor Code here: https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/

DIVERSITY
In our classroom, it is important to have an inclusive learning experience. As with the Mason Diversity Statement, “diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation,” and economic status. Being thoughtful and respectful of people’s opinions and backgrounds will help stimulate your environment and learning experience.
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| 8/26  | Course Introduction  
Lecture 1: Neurophysiology                                           |                           |
| 9/2   | Lecture 2: Action Potential  
Intro to MetaNeuron simulation                                         |                           |
| 9/9   | **Quiz 1: Neurophysiology & AP (Lectures 1-2)**  
Lecture 3: Brain Tour I — **Surface dissection**                           | **Lab Report 1:**  
MetaNeuron |
| 9/16  | Lecture 4: Brain Tour II — **Cranial nerves dissection**                      |                           |
| 9/23  | In-class review / Mock practical (Lectures 3-4)                           |                           |
| 9/30  | **Practical Exam 1: Brain Tours I & II (Lectures 3-4)**                    |                           |
| 10/7  | **No Class — Recharge & enjoy Fall Break!**                               |                           |
| 10/14 | Lecture 5: Visual System — **Eyeball dissection**                         |                           |
| 10/21 | **Quiz 2: Visual System (Lecture 5)**  
Lecture 6: Midsagittal Brain — **Midsagittal dissection**                  | **Lab Report 2:**  
Color Perception & Blind Spots |
| 10/28 | Lecture 7: Coronal Brain — **Coronal dissection**                         |                           |
| 11/4  | In-class review / Mock practical (Lectures 6-7)                           |                           |
| 11/11 | **Practical Exam 2 (Cumulative: Lectures 3-6)**                          |                           |
| 11/18 | Lecture 8: Behavioral Neuroscience & Histology                           |                           |
| 11/25 | **No Class — Thanksgiving Break**                                         |                           |
| 12/2  | Lecture 9: Cognitive Neuroscience & EEG                                  |                           |
| 12/9  | **University Exam Period — No Final Exam**                               | **Lab Report 4:**  
Cognitive Neuroscience & EEG |

**Note:** You are responsible for knowing about all announcements and any syllabus modifications made via Blackboard and/or email. Please contact me right away if you have any questions/concerns about attending or submitting assignments for the dates shown.