

## **Brain States – Fall 2007**

Instructor: Mary Harrington  
Class meets MWF 11:00 AM – 12:10 PM, Seeyle 105  
Office: 417 Bass  
Office Hours: M9-10, W830-930 or by appt  
Office Phone: x3925  
Email: [mharring@email.smith.edu](mailto:mharring@email.smith.edu)

### **Required Readings**

Ramachandran VS & Blakeslee, S (1998) *Phantoms in the brain*. New York, Quill

Colapinto, J (2000) *As Nature made him: The boy who was raised as a girl*. New York, Harper.

Gazzaniga, MS (2005) *The Ethical Brain*. New York, Dana Press

Hauser MD (2006) *Moral Minds: How nature designed our universal sense of right and wrong*. New York, Harper Collins.

Sapolsky, RM (1998) *Why zebras don't get ulcers*. New York, WH Freeman & co.

### **Goals:**

- ⇒ You will learn more about:
  - your brain
  - consciousness
  - mind-body interactions
  - neuroscience and ethics
  - effects of stress on mind and body
- ⇒ You will get practice giving an informative and entertaining account of a book about the brain and psychology.
- ⇒ Through group projects you will better understand implications of neuroscience to society

### **F Introduction Sept 7**

#### **Week one: *Phantoms in the Brain* Sept 10-14**

**M:** Chs 1-3

**W:** Chs 4-5

**F:** Chs 6-7

Outside work: prepare case presentations

**Week 2: *Phantoms in the Brain* Sept 17-21**

**M:** Chs 7-8

**W:** Chs 9-10

**F:** Chs 11-end

Outside work: prepare case presentations

**Week 3: *As nature made him* Sept 24-28**

**M:** Chs 1-5

**W:** Chs 6-12

**F** Ch 13- end

**Week 4: *As nature made him* Oct 1-5**

**M:** 430pm Talk 1 in “Gender and the Brain” series – Eric Vilain (UCLA)

**W:** background on sexual differentiation of the brain

**Th** Oct 4 - Talk 2 in “Gender and the Brain” series – Catherine Woolley (NWU)

**F:** U Mass Symposium

Outside work: attend scientific talks, submit short (no more than one page) summaries of talks attended

**Week 5: *The Ethical Brain* Oct 10-12**

**W:** Ch 1-3

**F:** Ch 4-5

Outside work: Select book to read for week 7

**Week 6: *The Ethical Brain* Oct 15-19**

**M:** Ch 6-7

**M:** 430 pm Talk 3 in “Gender and the Brain” series – Tina Williams (Duke)

**W:** Ch 8

**F:** Chs 9-10

Outside work: Attend talk

**Week 7 Oral book reports Oct 22-26**

**M 430pm** Talk 4 in “Gender and the Brain” series – Peg McCarthy (U Maryland)

**M-F:** Student Presentations

Outside work: Read one book, from choices below, or as approved. Prepare presentation. Submit prior to oral presentation your written report (3-5 pages)

**Week 9 *Moral Minds* Oct 29 -Nov 2**

**M:** Ch 1

**W:** Ch 7

**F:** group projects

**Week 10 Group projects Nov 5-9**

**M:** group projects

**W:** group project

**F:** presentations of groups

Outside work: Prepare group projects to explore themes of *Moral Minds*

Outside work: Select book to read for week 12

**Week 11 *Moral Minds* Nov 12-19**

**M:** Ch 2

**W:** Ch 3

**F:** Ch 4

**M:** Ch 5-6

**Week 12: Oral book reports Nov 26-30**

**M-F:** Student Presentations

Outside work: Read one book, from choices below, or as approved. Prepare presentation.

Submit prior to oral presentation your written report (3-5 pages)

**Week 13 *Why zebras don't get ulcers* Dec 3-7**

**M:** Ch 1-4

**W:** Ch 5-8

**F:** Chs 9-12

**Week 14 *Why zebras don't get ulcers* Dec 10-12**

**M:** Ch 13-14

**W:** Ch 15-end

There is no final exam in this class.

**Evaluation:**

30% Participation (self assessed each week, as well as instructor assessed)

40% two book reports (oral and written; 10% each)

20% Moral Mind group project (oral and written; 10% each)

10% scientific talks in "Gender and the brain" series (written, 5% each)