

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
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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)