

SYLLABUS: Graduate Teaching Practicum

Winter 2026; BEST 650 (HYBRID)

Instructor: Bill Griesar, Ph.D. griesar@pdx.edu

To participate in this practicum, you must have successfully passed your departmental qualifying exam and have explicit approval of your dissertation advisor in Behavioral Neuroscience.

PSU Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: TBD,

PSU Graduate Teaching Assistant;: TBD

Office hours: By appointment; griesar@pdx.edu; (503) 914-7487

Purpose of the practicum

To offer graduate students direct, immersive, short term experience in an undergraduate classroom environment to help them develop teaching skills by creatively preparing and presenting information about research efforts, and by effectively conveying relevant background material, including neural mechanisms and techniques required to understand the work.

Learning Outcomes

The primary outcomes of this practicum are:

- (1) BASIC KNOWLEDGE (Behavioral Neuroscience Competency A): To reliably and effectively convey knowledge of your specific area of neuroscience research, including relevant neural and genetic mechanisms, distributed networks, and techniques
- (2) INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS (Behavioral Neuroscience Competency C): To interact with undergraduate students, teaching assistants and your instructor in a respectful, empathetic and

- constructive manner, and to communicate effectively with students regarding classroom activities and assignments
- (3) EXPERIENCE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT (Behavioral Neuroscience Competency D): To effectively organize and present current topics in neuroscience research in an undergraduate classroom setting, and gain experience teaching, developing assessments, and assessing undergraduate students
- (4) PROFESSIONALISM (Behavioral Neuroscience Competency E): To attend to practicum duties responsibly and promptly, exhibit respectful and ethical behavior, and carefully manage sensitive assessment scoring and grade information

About your undergraduate students

At PSU you will teach undergraduates enrolled in a neuroscience course (PSY 452: Advanced Neurophysiological Psychology). The undergraduates have completed *introductory* neuroscience courses, and by the time you start your practicum they will have read original research articles and have a grasp of nervous system basics, and various imaging, electrophysiological and genetic techniques.

Required practicum course components

All graduate participants are expected to prepare sections of the course syllabus, indicating learning objectives, required readings, and topics to be discussed each day. Participants will also prepare slides, relevant online text and videos and assessments tailored to the material presented in class.

Graduate students will also lead seminar discussion of current research articles related to their practicum topic(s). You may choose a selection of papers for the undergraduates to cover, or direct undergraduates to identify current peer-reviewed research papers on their own to go over and explore.

Graduate/postdoc/research associates are also expected to attend a Primate Center Tour, and also participate in a panel discussion with undergraduates during final exam week at Portland State University, to present on and answer questions about graduate school and research - how you arrived there, useful background and preparation, and any additional insights or suggestions.

Preparing your practicum classes

Draft syllabi for PSU undergraduate courses are available for more detail on undergraduate preparation. Email griesar@pdx.edu for copies of these syllabi; syllabi will also be available at <http://nwnoggin.org/get-involved/oregon-health-science-university/>

Again, as part of your practicum, you will update syllabi with details on your topics, assignments, seminars and assessments. There is an online website for the course, and you will post material here, too. *Students rely heavily on web resources in all courses; however this term we'll conduct our course as a "hybrid," with both in person and Zoom classes.* PSU uses the Canvas online learning environment.

Posted material should include assignment instructions, relevant background readings, web links, video reviews and copies of slides prepared for the course.

We'll meet early in PSU's winter term to go over expectations, and clarify steps required to prepare your practicum mini-course. You are welcome and encouraged to reach out with questions and concerns at any time.

Grades

Grades (P/NP) are based on successful completion of course preparation (syllabi, slides, background reading materials, links, online course space development), and delivery (lectures, seminars, assessments, grading).

Practicum Dates for Training and Course Delivery

1. **Introduction** (1/9; 3 – 4pm): Overview of practicum organization, expectations, and requirements. *Date flexible - we can move if needed.*
2. **Teaching basics** (1/16; 3 - 4pm): Building a successful syllabus, learning objectives/outcomes/competencies, creating a useful online course website, incorporating relevant classroom activities, assessment development and delivery, assessment relevance to class presentation of material, dealing with student academic concerns (plagiarism, grades).
3. **Progress check in** (2/6; 3 - 4pm): Meet @ PSU to confirm progress on syllabi, website, overheads, background readings/links, assessments...
4. **IN PERSON Primate Center Tour** (2/4; 12:30 – 3:00pm): ONPRC
5. **Graduate Student Panel** (2/16, 12:30 – 2:20pm): ZOOM

Session One: Research Topic TBD

TBD, OHSU graduate student

WEEK SEVEN (2/16 – 2/20): RESEARCH TOPIC

**** ZOOM CLASS MONDAY, ZOOM CLASS FRIDAY;**

****IN PERSON CLASS WEDNESDAY**

Topic One (2/16): ZOOM; Details TBD

Topic One (2/18): IN PERSON; Details TBD

WEEK EIGHT (2/23 – 2/27): RESEARCH TOPIC

**** ZOOM CLASS MONDAY, ZOOM CLASS FRIDAY;**

****IN PERSON CLASS WEDNESDAY**

Topic One (2/23): ZOOM; Details TBD

Topic One (2/25): IN PERSON; Details TBD

Topic One (2/27): ZOOM; Details TBD

RESEARCH TOPIC ASSESSMENT ONLINE

Session Two: Research Topic TBD

TBD, OHSU graduate student

MORE Details TBA in class

Please check the Canvas course website for further instructions

WEEK NINE (3/2 – 3/6): RESEARCH TOPIC

**** ZOOM CLASS MONDAY, ZOOM CLASS FRIDAY;**

****IN PERSON CLASS WEDNESDAY**

Topic One (3/2): ZOOM; Details TBD

Topic One (3/4): IN PERSON; Details TBD

Topic One (3/6): ZOOM; Details TBD

WEEK TEN (3/9 – 3/13): RESEARCH TOPIC

**** ZOOM CLASS MONDAY, ZOOM CLASS FRIDAY;**

****IN PERSON CLASS WEDNESDAY**

Topic Two (3/9): ZOOM; Details TBD

Topic Two (3/11): IN PERSON; Details TBD

Topic One (3/13): ZOOM; Details TBD

RESEARCH TOPIC ASSESSMENT ONLINE

GRADUATE STUDENT INFORMATION PANEL (3/16): Final exam

week. Undergraduates, please bring (and post) questions about graduate school, research opportunities, application procedures, grants, etc!

***** ZOOM MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2025, 12:30 – 2:20pm 🍀 *****

Commitment to Equity and Inclusion

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Inquiries about Title IX compliance or sex/gender discrimination and harassment may be directed to the **OHSU Title IX Coordinator** at 503-494-0258 or titleix@ohsu.edu