

NJIT Neuropathology 448/648 Fall 2025

Instructor: Darshan J Desai darshan@njit.edu

Course Day and times: Tuesday & Thursday- 4:00PM to 5:25PM

Room: Central King Building (CKB) 316.

Text Books: Neuroanatomy Through Clinical Cases 2nd Edition by Hal Blumenfeld
& Strunk and White Elements of Style

All titles are available in NJIT Bookstore or Amazon.com

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD HAVE THIS IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF
THE EMAIL – BIOL 448-648 F2025**

Lecture/Date	Day	Topic
1 Sept 2	Tuesday	Intro to the course/Objectives
2 Sept 4	Thursday	Intro to Brain & nervous system
3 Sept 09	Tuesday	Intro Cell biology
4 Sept 11	Thursday	Intro Molecular Biology
5 Sept 16	Tuesday	Intro to pathology
6 Sept 18	Thursday	Continued intro to pathology.
7 Sept 23	Tuesday	TBD
8 Sept 25	Thursday	TBD
9 Sept 30	Tuesday	TBD
10 Oct 02	Thursday	TBD
11 Oct 06	Tuesday	TBD
12 Oct 08	Thursday	TBD
13 Oct 14	Tuesday	TBD
14 Oct 16	Thursday	TBD
15 Oct 21	Tuesday	TBD
16 Oct 23	Thursday	TBD
17 Oct 28	Tuesday	Student disease A-1 TBD
18 Oct 30	Thursday	Student disease A-2 TBD
19 Nov 04	Tuesday	Student disease B-1 TBD
20 Nov 06	Thursday	Student disease B-2 TBD

21	Nov 11	Tuesday	Student disease C-1 TBD
22	Nov 13	Thursday	Student disease C-2 TBD
23	Nov 18	Tuesday	Student disease D-1 TBD
24	Nov 20	Thursday	Student disease D-2 TBD
25	Nov 25	Tuesday	Large Group disease A-1 TBD
November 27 – NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING			
26	Dec 02	Tuesday	Large Group disease A-2 TBD
27	Dec 04	Thursday	Large Group disease B-1 TBD
28	Dec 09	Tuesday	Large Group disease B-2 TBD
29	Dec 11	Thursday	Last day of class

Goals & Objective of BIOL448/648

- This is a seminar style course where peer reviewed journals articles and the latest scientific advances will be identified, reviewed and assessed as a class.
- The instructor will only provide background and demonstration in the early portion of the Fall 2025 semester as indicated by the dates above.
- Only if necessary, will the course instructor add to the course materials – once the background/demonstration period is over, students will be solely be responsible for course progression.
- Students are required to utilize various medical, scientific and technology databases (PubMed, Google Scholar, Web of Science) to find articles.
- Students are required to organize presentations view PowerPoint (only) to present their finding to the class- the goal of which is to learn and master how to present these materials to scientific peers and professionals.
- Students will generate mini-reviews, as discussed below and based exclusively on the ALL materials used in their team or individual presentations.
- The course will be administered via CANVAS – you must have access to NJIT CANVAS.

Grading:

- Groups will be graded by both students and the instructor.
 - The Instructor will have 45% of value (power points and 3 written mini-review works), with student's evaluation being 15% of complete grade.
- Late submission of the critique will result in an automatic 25% reduction in the student's grade.**

- A cumulative final will be at the end of the semester during finals period 10%.
- The major final paper is 30% (20 -25 pages – not including bibliography, using journal double column single space format; see sample paper on CANVAS).
- Students will be assigned a unique and anonymous identifier (*known only to the instructor*) to allow for objective and un-restrictive assessment of the presentation and work effort of seminar speaker and teammates. The critiques will be submitted with in **24hrs** of each presentation and will be used towards their individual course grade. **Late submission of the critique will result in an automatic 25% reduction in the student's grade.**
- **1 week** after the student's presentation, student speakers will have the anonymous critiques from the class and the instructor to allow for use in improvement of successive preparation and presentation—this will be posted on CANVAS.
A= 90% or higher
B= 80% or higher
C= 70% or higher
D= 60% or higher
F= below 60%

GRADES ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE – DO NOT ASK OR TRY!

Presentation:

- Teams of 2 (or 4, if not individuals) will prepare the power points with a lecture length of 45mins, followed by discussion time by audience and instructor.
- Teams or student presenters will have the following items submitted to Dr.Desai **1 week prior to the date of the presentation** to upload on to CANVAS for class review:
 1. all PDFs of the journal articles and reference materials used to generate the seminar **1 week** prior to the date of the seminar. Teams must highlight PDF articles with priority data/information
 2. a 1 to 2 page summary/mini review document that outlines critical elements/data to be covered and reviewed from the journal articles submitted for the student audience to utilize
 3. PowerPoints for the pathologies in PowerPoint/Google slides formats.
 - ❖ **Failure to provide materials on schedule will immediately result in a full letter grade reduction. NO EXCEPTIONS**
- PowerPoint Presentations MUST have:
 1. a history of the pathology,
 2. epidemiology of the pathology,
 3. history of the disease,
 4. clinical diagnostic/biochemical characterization of the pathology,

5. a detailed biochemical/molecular/biological mechanism of the pathology,
 6. current therapeutic options
 7. an emergent therapy. (*2nd half of the presentation for first team presentations*)
- As a Writing Intensive/Honors Course, Student presenters will have to submit a 5-10 page mini-review of the topic covered; this is done individually & independently by each student, and is due **1 week** post the student's presentation (**4 writing assignments in total**). **Late submission will not be accepted under any circumstances!!** **Late submission of the critique will result in an automatic 25% reduction in the student's grade for each day it is late!**
 - First drafts of these papers will be submitted to **Turnitin.com** via **CANVAS** for review, edit recommendations, and academic integrity validation. Any report that has over 20% or higher similarity reports will be characterized as plagiarized and will result in unconditional failure of the assignment, followed by immediate reporting of the incident to department, chairman and dean. Once students receive the corrected 1st drafts from the instructor, they will re-submit the second edited draft for second review and comments after 1 week, and after a 2nd review, where student will receive further comments and edits, students will resubmit a final version after 1 week to be graded.
 - Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for any element of the course is **strictly prohibited** and will be evaluated & examined upon submission of ALL materials. If AI use is identified, this constitutes a violation that will be reported to the Dean of Students office. Turnitin.com will be able to detect use of AI and from which AI product was specifically used...do not use AI to save yourself from issues.
 - Each student will submit 5 pathologies for a **Final LONG FORM major 20-25 page research paper (NOT INCLUDING BIOGRAPHY)** assignment on **September 30, 2025**. Student must submit 5 pathologies for selection by this date. The instructor will then select which Long Form Paper subject to be written about no later than **October 14, 2025**. This paper will be in a professional "review" format to be clarified by the instructor. This assignment will be **due on December 11, 2024 – 10AM – this will NOT change.**
 - If you read and understand this syllabus – you will send me an email by Monday, September 1, 2025 before 9:00AM with the subject heading **"BIOL 448-648 F2025 – I understand this course and read the syllabus."** Include your NJIT ID number and email address in the body of the email.

GRADES for this course:

- **A= 90% or higher**
- **B= 80% or higher**
- **C= 70% or higher**
- **D= 60% or higher**
- **F= below 60%**

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Plagiarism is defined as the act of using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to that person! Even if you cite the work, but copy and paste it – this is STILL considered plagiarism!

This is an advanced Biology course and there is zero tolerance for any academic misconduct!

Office Hours:

Thursday: 11am to 12pm & 1pm to 230pm

Wednesday: 11:30am to 2pm

Students must make an appointment to meet!

Phone: 973.642.7084

Email: darshan@njit.edu

With regards to responding to email correspondence, I will try to reply to emails within 24-48 hrs after receiving them. Please include the course number and name in subject line of email. If you do not receive a reply from me by then, please email me again including the original email sent!

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