

**PSYC 705 – Neuroethics**  
Preliminary Syllabus

Meeting time: Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30

Location: Goddard Labs Room 103

Professor: Martha Farah, [mfarah@psych.upenn.edu](mailto:mfarah@psych.upenn.edu)

Welcome to the Neuroethics graduate seminar! The ultimate goal of this seminar is to equip you with knowledge about advances in neuroscience and their ethical, legal and societal impacts (ELSI), including the knowledge of how to analyze and evaluate these ELSIs. We'll pursue this goal with four kinds of learning activity: Assigned readings, videotaped lectures to be watched on your own, classroom discussions, and a written collaborative project. A little more about each of these activities here:

There will be weekly assigned readings, many of which will come from a book I edited called *Neuroethics: An Introduction with Readings*. It's a relatively inexpensive paperback, available from Amazon, and gives you a Whitman Sampler of many different authors' writings. I will give you a pdf of the first week's assignment so you don't have to order it with express shipping. You should complete the readings before coming to class.

We will be "flipping the classroom" (as it's called) by having most of the lectures watched outside of class time, allowing us to use our two hours per week in class for other kinds of work that can only be done together. This work includes discussion and our group project.

Classroom discussion time will be used in the usual way: to clarify points of confusion, explore different perspectives on the issues, and generally scratch whatever intellectual itches you might have felt when reading and viewing the assigned work.

Finally, the group project! Together we will build a kind of "pro-con" website for neuroethics. Check out the original site here: <http://www.procon.org/>

Grading policy: Depending on the final number of students and the final number of pro-con topics, each of you will have primary responsibility for drafting sections of a certain number of pro-cons by particular dates during the semester. This written work will form the basis of 75% of your grade. The remaining 25% will be based on attendance and participation in class, including evidence of having absorbed the readings and videotaped lectures.

The first month's calendar of topics and assignments is given here. I will be guided by your interests and whatever pro-con topic schedule we develop in filling in the remainder of the semester. Expect a syllabus update by the end of February.

- 1.29 Overview of neuroethics and plan of course**  
Reading due: Chapter 1 of *Neuroethics: An Introduction with Readings*  
Also please familiarize yourself with <http://www.procon.org/>
- 2.05 Brain enhancement I**  
*no class (MF away)* - In lieu of class please watch 2 videos this week:  
Lecture on pharmaceutical cognitive enhancement by MF:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YGwwPEAFPk>  
Lecture on enhancement with noninvasive brain stimulation by Roy Hamilton:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0UEiHZWeko>  
Reading: Chapter 2 and Readings 2.1 and 2.5
- 2.12 Brain enhancement II**  
Lecture on personality and mood enhancement by MF:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9ztSK9zqi8>  
Reading: Chapter 3 and Readings 2.4 and 3.3
- 2.19 Brain imaging I**  
Lecture on brain imaging by Geoff Aguirre:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSSiN5OrRig>  
Reading: Chapter 4, Readings 4.5 and 4.6
- 2.26 Brain imaging II**  
tbd
- 3.05** tbd
- 3.12** spring break
- 3.19** tbd
- 3.26** tbd
- 4.02** tbd
- 4.09** tbd
- 4.16** tbd
- 4.23** tbd
- 4.30** tbd