



BIOEN 7870-001 Neural Engineering Research Group (NERG)

Fall/Spring Semesters

Tuesdays, 12:25 PM- 1:45 PM

WEB 3780 Evans Conference Room

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Course Website: <https://www.sci.utah.edu/centers/nerg.html>

Course Description

This is a 0.5 credit course that provides up-to-date information on current research in neural engineering. This course also provides a venue for students, post-docs, faculty, clinicians, and industry partners to present on their neural research. However, the course is heavily weighted toward presentations by scientists in training (i.e. undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs, medical school students, residents and fellows). In terms of content the course is focused on communication. Part of being a scientist is being a professional communicator, both written and verbal. This requires constant practice, and NERG is a venue to provide this.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Effectively organize and clearly communicate a scientific presentation.
2. Critically analyze and evaluate research methods, results, and data interpretation.
3. Interact constructively with peers to provide and receive feedback.
4. Understand the breadth and depth of the field of neural engineering in terms of technologies and applications.

Grading

1. Presentation: 50%
2. Abstract: 10%
3. In-class participation: 40%

Course Requirements

Each student who works in a neural engineering lab (not just those taking the course) is expected to present during every academic year. NERG usually meets every other week during the spring and fall semesters.

Expectations for Presenters

- We do not expect you to have all the answers. No one has all the answers, and if we did this wouldn't be called research.
- We do expect that by the time you present at NERG you have done some experiments, put some thought into them and made some refinements. It's fine to ask for help in refining your ideas and working through difficult problems during a NERG talk.
- We expect you to rehearse ahead of time and make a conscientious effort to put together a good presentation. Sloppy, poorly executed presentations are disrespectful to your audience because you aren't using their time and energy wisely.
- If I can provide one piece of advice about putting together your presentation is this: everything you say and show should be doing useful work toward delivering your message to the audience.
- Putting together a good presentation can be hard work, but one of the goals of this class is to help you become a better presenter.
- Here is a humorous example of what not to do: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSGqp4-bZQY>

Expectations for Audience

- It is entirely appropriate to ask hard questions of your peers when they are presenting, and this is a constructive part of doing research.
- NERG is one of the few venues where we can give presenters constructive feedback on their work. In most other venues, for example during conference presentations or in grant reviews, we must recuse ourselves from the review process because we are at the same institution. Put another way, if there is a major problem with my results or my presentation then I would much rather hear it from colleagues at my own institution before I present them at an international conference.

Logistics

The course home page (<http://sci.utah.edu/centers/nerg.html>) contains a link to a Google Docs page to sign up to present. Please add your name, topic and indicate length of talk (15 or 30 minutes) by entering your information in the appropriate column.

If you are not able to access the sign-up sheet, please email butson@sci.utah.edu or chantel.charlebois@utah.edu and we will add you to the list. Keep in mind that the lecture hall is reserved for ~1:15 when reserving your slot (typically 2-3 people can sign up for a given day).

Format: A projector with most common video adapters will be provided. Speakers are expected to provide a laptop. 30 min presentations should consist of 15-25 min of slides, followed by questions. 15 min "poster" presentations should consist of a 5-10 min walk through of the poster (projected on a screen) followed by questions.

Syllabus Addendum

Plagiarism

From the University of Utah Student Code (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>):
“Plagiarism” means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

Attendance

"The University expects regular attendance at all class meetings. Instructors must communicate any particular attendance requirements of the course to students in writing on or before the first-class meeting. Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with and satisfying the entire range of academic objectives and requirements as defined by the instructor." PPM, Policy 6-100III-O)

The Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Student Names & Personal Pronouns

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name as well as “Preferred first name” (if previously entered by you in the Student Profile section of your CIS account). While CIS refers to this as merely a preference, I will honor you by referring to you with the name and pronoun that feels best for you in class, on papers, exams, group projects, etc. Please advise me of any name or pronoun changes (and update CIS) so I can help create a learning environment in which you, your name, and your pronoun will be respected. If you need assistance getting your preferred name on your UID card, please visit the LGBT Resource Center

Room 409 in the Olpin Union Building, or email bpeacock@sa.utah.edu to schedule a time to drop by. The LGBT Resource Center hours are M-F 8am-5pm, and 8am- 6pm on Tuesdays.