

How to enroll in one of the NEUR courses taught by Texas Medical Center faculty

If you are interested in taking one of the NEUR courses at Rice, which are offered by faculty at Baylor College of Medicine and elsewhere in the Texas Medical Center, here are some important tips:

1. Read all the relevant information on the "Neuroscience at Rice" website at:

www.ruf.rice.edu/~neurosci, paying particular attention to the top link, on course offerings. This website is updated much more often than Rice's registrar's website, so if the two conflict, this link is likely to be more accurate

2. There are a number of differences between these courses and regular Rice courses. For example, they usually meet in the Texas Medical Center; they are often taught according to the academic calendars of the two medical schools there (Baylor and UT) rather than according to the Rice calendar and so they start and stop on different dates and may have different holidays and durations; they are often team-taught; they often have labs that are not scheduled until the courses begin.

3. Once you have decided you're interested in a particular course, check out the specific requirements and necessary background, as best you can. Often there will be a link to a syllabus (sometimes from the preceding year) that lets you see what the readings are, etc. All NEUR courses require permission of the instructor (or, for Baylor-taught courses, the Director of Graduate Studies Prof. [Mariella De Biasi, Ph.D.](#)), so it is important that you contact that person by phone or email to discuss your interests and background. Some courses are highly restrictive. NEUR 577, for example, is open only to Rice Psychology graduate students.

4. NEUR 511(Integrative Neuroscience) is the entry-level course for Baylor-based NEUR courses. It and NEUR 512 form a year-long course that carries 10 Rice credits and is a thorough introduction to all of neuroscience. Baylor wants all students taking NEUR 511 in the Fall to continue with NEUR 512 in the Spring, so don't pursue this course unless you are prepared for the entire year. This is an extremely demanding course but one in which Rice students succeed if they apply themselves and if they have the proper background. That background includes doing well in basic science courses at Rice, particularly in the biological sciences. You will be taking this course along with Baylor graduate students and others who are quite well prepared in most cases; so if you have doubts about your own background, it makes sense to concentrate first on your preparation, even if that means delaying taking NEUR 511 and 512 by a year. Note: a recent syllabus for NEUR 511 is at: <http://neuro.neusc.bcm.tmc.edu/gradprog-pages/IN%20I%202004/INonline.html>

5. Sometimes registering for these courses via Esther is difficult. Try your best, but if you've got permission of the Baylor instructor and have contacted Dr. Dannemiller at Rice, you should be fine even if you can't get pre-registered on the web.
6. The Rice contact person for NEUR courses is Prof. James Dannemiller, Director of Neurosciences, in Rice's Department of Psychology (dannemil@rice.edu, x5831). He is the one to contact with questions or problems.
7. The Baylor contact person is Krista Defalco (kdefalco@cns.neusc.bcm.tmc.edu); she can help put you in contact with the Baylor instructors (but not the instructors at UT, however) or answer other questions you may have. More information on Baylor's and UT's courses are on the Neuroscience at Rice website.
8. A closing note: these courses are extremely well taught and provide an excellent grounding in neuroscience. Please don't let the complications of registering, etc., put you off if you are interested in the subject matter.