

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVES (DSE-11): Basics of Neuroscience

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course	Dept offering the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical			
Basics of Neuroscience Zoo-DSE- 11	04	03	Nil	01	Passed Class XII with Biology/ Biotechnology	Concept of functioning of nervous system	Zoology

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives of this course are as follows:

- to understand the structure and function of the nervous system at the molecular, cellular, and systems levels.
- to provide an in-depth understanding of neuronal excitability, signal generation and propagation, synaptic transmission, post-synaptic mechanisms of signal integration, and neural plasticity.
- to gain an insight into how membrane excitability elicits functional effects in individual neurons and neuronal networks and how different parts of the brain control various behavioural patterns by releasing neurohormones/neuropeptides.
- to have a thorough knowledge of neuroimaging techniques and a comprehensive understanding of the kinds of information each technique provides about the brain.
- to gain knowledge about the neural mechanism and pathogenesis of common neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease etc.

Learning Outcomes

By studying this course, students will be able to:

- understand the fundamentals of neuroscience, key concepts, and the relationship between the nervous system and behaviour/cognition.
- comprehend the neural basis of sleep, emotions, learning and memory and related aspects of cognition.
- have a detailed understanding of how different neuroimaging techniques are used to assess brain function and explore questions in clinical and behavioural neuroscience.
- explore potential developments to current research, design, execute and communicate a substantive research project in the field of neuroscience or its application.

SYLLABUS OF DSE- 11

UNIT- 1 Introduction to Nervous System **6 hrs**

Origins of Neuroscience; Neuron doctrine; Classification of the nervous system.

UNIT- 2 Structure of the Brain **5 hrs**

Gross anatomy of the human brain, Meninges, ventricular System, Blood-brain Barrier, Cranial nerves.

UNIT-3 Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology **10 hrs**

Classification of neurons; Structure of prototypical neuron; Electrophysiology of membrane potentials-resting and action potentials, generation, and propagation; Ion Channels and Membrane Ion Currents; Types of Synapses, synaptic transmission and integration; Post synaptic potentials - EPSPs and IPSPs; tripartite synapse.

UNIT- 4 Neurotransmitters **4 hrs**

Types of neurotransmitters; transmitter-gated channels; neurotransmitter receptors Ionotropic and metabotropic receptors; G-protein coupled receptors and effectors.

UNIT- 5 Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience **10 hrs**

Neurobiology of visual perception; Molecular basis of learning and memory: Classification of memory, amnesia, case of H.M. (Henry Malaison); Synaptic plasticity, Long-term potentiation (LTP), Long-term depression (LTD); Memory consolidation.

UNIT-6 Neurophysiology of Sleep **4 hrs**

Neurophysiology of sleep and wakefulness, electroencephalogram rhythms (EEG).

UNIT- 7 Neuroimaging and Neuropathology **6 hrs**

Computed Tomography Scan (CT), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), Positron Emission Tomography (PET); Neurological disorders (in brief)- Epilepsy, Schizophrenia; Aetiology and Molecular pathogenesis - Parkinson's, Alzheimer's.

Practical **(30 hrs)** **(Laboratory periods: 15 classes of 2 hours each)**

1. Study of brain coordinates using stereotaxis instrument (video demonstration).
2. Study of *Drosophila* nervous system using GFP reporter system.
3. Study of anatomy of mammalian brain (from slaughter house or) using brain models (Medical anatomical teaching models, graphics, videos etc., can be used).
4. Histological study of neurons and myelin sheath (Nissl and Luxol Fast Blue staining).
5. Study of novelty, anxiety, and spatial learning in mice.
6. Histological study of the cerebellar molecular layer. H&E staining and double

7. Study of neurodegenerative diseases (Parkinson's and Alzheimer's) with the help of brain scan images or brain tissue images.

Essential/recommended readings

1. Purves, D. et al., (2017) Neuroscience, VI Edition. Oxford University Press.
2. Bear, M. F., Connors, B. W. and Paradiso, M. A. (2016). Neuroscience: Exploring the Brain. IV Edition. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer.
3. Squire, L., Berg, D., Bloom, F. E., du-Lac, S., Ghosh, A., Spitzer, N. C. (2012) Fundamental Neuroscience, IV Edition, Academic Press Publications.
4. Kandel, E.R., Schwartz, J.H. and Jessell, T.M. (2000) Principles of Neural Science. IV Edition, McGraw-Hill Companies.

Suggestive readings

1. Carter, R. (2014). The Human Brain Book. D. K. Publishers.
2. Stephan M. Stahl (2000) Essential Psychopharmacology- Neuroscientific Basis and Practical Applications. II Edition. Cambridge University Press.
3. Ramachandran, V. S. and Blakeslee, S. (1998). Phantoms in the Brain: Probing the Mysteries of the Human Mind. William Morrow, New York.

NOTE: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.