

**THE BRAIN IN TEXT AND FILM**  
**PSYCH 472, NEUR 461, SPRING 2012**  
**DR. JANE FLINN**

**OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE.** The text is *Mirroring People*, by Iacoboni, which will be referred to as MP. It discusses the discovery of mirror neurons in the brain, and their role in behavior. The films selected are ones that I have enjoyed watching and frequently have not had time to show, or only to show in part, in classes. The goal is to give you a fuller understanding of how the brain works.

Students will be expected to present ~ 1 chapter each from MP or the Sacks or Sapolsky articles. This schedule is subject to change if discussion of a topic moves faster or more slowly than anticipated.

**JAN 26** MP Chapter 1, the discovery of mirror neurons, which respond when someone else moves. Regions of the brain and their function. Parkinson's disease (PD) is a motor disease.  
Film: Selection from *Brain # 2*, Normal Movement., Parkinson's patients.

**FEB 2** Chapt 1 -> 12 (JMF)  
Film: Parkinson's Disease ,

**FEB 9** Drug abuse led to PD in young people.  
Film: *The Frozen Addicts*.

**FEB 16** Deep brain stimulation is now used to treat PD.. Discussion of films, MP 1, 12-46, 3,  
Film:: *Sybil's story*

**FEB 23**  
Film: *Brain Works*, general film on the brain (Dr Flinn away. )

**MAR 1!**  
"Face blind", article by Oliver Sacks., a discussion of prosopagnosia (the inability to recognize faces). MP5  
Film segment from *Brain #6* on prosopagnosia. Segments on prosopagnosia and Capgras syndrome from Ramachandran.

**MAR 8** MP6  
Film: *Dreams*.

**MAR 15, SPRING BREAK**

**MAR 22** Chapter from *Why Zebras don't get Ulcers*, by Sapolsky. MP 5,6

MAR 29

Film: The silent killer (stress ), with Sapolsky

APR 5 Discussion of Sapolsky's work and MP 7,8 .

APR 12

Film: Half a Brain.

APR 19 MP 9, 10, 11.

APR 26

Film: The placebo effect

MAY 3

Discussion of MP and films.

Film: We are Predictably Irrational

**MAY 12 TAKE HOME PAPER DUE:** On a topic in one of the films or a chapter in the book, it should not be just a summary. .

Grading Policy:

35% for presentation

35% paragraph on each film – due the following week- and class discussion .

35% for paper

Office Hours: Tu 3-4, TH 4-5 DKH 2022

Call 993-4107 or 370-1406 for an appointment at other times.

E-MAIL [jflinn@gmu.edu](mailto:jflinn@gmu.edu)

If you are a student with disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 709-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

The add and drop deadlines for classes.\*Last day to add: January 31<sup>st</sup>

Last day to drop: February 24<sup>th</sup>\*

Honor code: All students are expected to be familiar with, and abide by, the University Honor

Code. As required by the Honor Code, all suspected violations will be reported.