

# **FMRI core syllabus**

**How to learn from videos:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7IPiNE4\\_QE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7IPiNE4_QE)

Tom Liu's lectures: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWUn9KXLEFqfUeTY0tmC5nQ>

FSL course lectures: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvgasosJnUVI\\_bt8VbERUyCLU93OG31h\\_](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvgasosJnUVI_bt8VbERUyCLU93OG31h_)

Coursera: Principles of fMRI 1: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/functional-mri>

Coursera: Principles of fMRI 2: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/functional-mri-2>

Joseph Devlin - Designing and Analysing fMRI Experiments:

<https://ucl.podia.com/designing-and-analysing-fmri-experiments>

[https://people.bss.phy.cam.ac.uk/~rea1/Nov15\\_2016\\_Talk/Magical\\_Magnetic\\_Resonance\\_Imaging.pdf](https://people.bss.phy.cam.ac.uk/~rea1/Nov15_2016_Talk/Magical_Magnetic_Resonance_Imaging.pdf)

## **Mathematics**

(See David Dorran, TU Dublin <https://www.youtube.com/user/ddorran/featured?app=desktop>)

Linear algebra (vectors and matrices) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNk\\_zzaMoSs&list=PLZHQB0bOWTQDPD3MizzM2xVFitgF8hE\\_ab](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNk_zzaMoSs&list=PLZHQB0bOWTQDPD3MizzM2xVFitgF8hE_ab)

Complex numbers

Waves: amplitudes, frequency and phase

Basic calculus

Harmonic analysis:

The Fourier transform and Fourier analysis (conjugate variables)

Continuous vs discrete functions

Hilbert transform

AM and FM

Sampling and the Nyquist criterion

Aliasing

Convolution and deconvolution

Interpolation

Intro to systems analysis: Linear vs non-linear systems

## **Statistics**

The normal distribution and averages  
Hypothesis tests  
Parametric vs non-parametric statistics  
Significance  
The t statistic  
The F statistic  
Least squares estimate (ordinary and weighted LS)  
GLM  
Linearity  
Correlation (and autocorrelation)  
Multiple comparisons, FDR and false positives  
CRLB?  
Bayes theorem and inference?

Multiple comparisons  
Within subjects  
Between subjects

## **Psychology**

Inference, reverse inference  
Reinforcement learning

## **Physics**

Introduction to electricity and magnetism: fields, current in a wire, Maxwell's equations?

Introduction to NMR: spin, magnetization, origins of the signal, spin density, the Bloch equations

Is quantum mechanics necessary for understanding magnetic resonance?  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/cmr.a.20123>

Introduction to Relaxation: relaxation by a random field, T1, T2, B0 and relaxation rates  
Inversion, saturation  
Echoes (spin, gradient; include the effects of diffusion)  
Isotropic diffusion and the PGSE sequence  
Chemical shift and the NMR spectrum

Intro to pulse sequences

Introduction to image formation

K-space

Spatial selection

Intro to anatomical scans

Magnetism: diamagnetism, paramagnetism, superparamagnetism, ferromagnetism

Magnetic susceptibility: water, tissue, blood, bone, non-biological materials

(including contrast agents)

Flow sensitivity in NMR and MRI

EPI and EPI artifacts

Acceleration (in-plane, slice)

## **Engineering**

Introduction to scanner architecture

Electromagnet basics

Introduction to scan suite layout

Scanner hardware control and pulse sequences

Gradient coils

Transmission RF coils

Receive RF coils

## **Biology**

Introduction to cell biology: cell structure and functions

Brain cell types

Introduction to neuronal signaling: neurons, synapses, the resting potential, neurotransmitters,

Introduction to cellular metabolism: glucose, lactate, TCA cycle, etc.

Sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems

Intro neuroanatomy: terminology, gray matter, white matter, Brodmann regions, connectivity,

Intro vascular anatomy

Blood supply basics (MAP, CPP, systolic, diastolic)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4QexcCqcCU>

Blood flow control: Blood flow, perfusion, the CBV, ATT, vasomotion, autoregulation, CVR,

Introduction to respiratory physiology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qTJo3zRjrY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8t-xlsncnls>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlzM2rdHWzl>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mL\\_NQ3pKnA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mL_NQ3pKnA)

[https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/docs/librariesprovider60/default-document-library/oxygenation-and-oxygen-therapy.pdf?sfvrsn=4ca831b9\\_2](https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/docs/librariesprovider60/default-document-library/oxygenation-and-oxygen-therapy.pdf?sfvrsn=4ca831b9_2)

Introduction to cerebral metabolism: respiration, blood supply, oxygen and glucose utilization

Neurovascular coupling

[https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/courses-az/bmd\\_eng/](https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/courses-az/bmd_eng/)

## Image processing and analysis

Introduction to command line computing, scripting, directory structure, links, permissions, etc. (See Andy's Brain Book)

Introduction to data formats, data structure, bits, headers,

Registration

Volume realignment

Slice timing correction

Smoothing

Introduction to machine learning: classifiers, supervised vs unsupervised learning

Intro to neural nets

Generative adversarial networks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8L11aMN5KY8>

Independent component analysis

Principal component analysis

ROC analysis

The hemodynamic response function

<http://practical-neuroimaging.github.io/>. See BMD\_ENG 301-0 Quantitative

Systems Physiology and BMD\_ENG 302-0 Quantitative Systems Physiology

<https://andysbrainbook.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/mumfordbrainstats>

## **Experimental design**

Block designs

ER-fMRI

## **Biophysics**

Oxy- and deoxyhemoglobin properties

Intro to pulse oximetry: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQdiKbaB7ro> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA\\_5Yn1WW0M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA_5Yn1WW0M)

The BOLD dilution model and OEF

Draining vein effects (magnetic susceptibility model)

Inflow and apparent T1

Motion in fMRI

Physiological effects in fMRI

## **Practical issues**

Safety: stray field effects,

Workflow: checklists

Basic scanner operation

Anatomical scanning

Functional scanning