Course Lesson Plan: Social Neuroscience – Social Behavior and the Brain

📌 **Course Layout & Weekly Modules**

Week 1: Self and Other Representations in the Human Brain

- Introduction to Social Neuroscience: Scope & Relevance
- Understanding Self-Perception and Brain Mechanisms
- Neural Networks Involved in Self vs. Other Recognition
- The Role of the Default Mode Network in Social Cognition
- Summary and Discussion

Week 2: Neural Basis of Personal Knowledge & Evaluating Faces on Social Dimensions

- The Brain's Processing of Personal and Social Knowledge
- How We Form Impressions of Others
- The Role of the Fusiform Face Area (FFA) in Face Recognition
- The Amygdala and Emotional Reactions to Faces
- Summary and Discussion

Week 3: Social Category Information & Intergroup Relations

- How the Brain Encodes Social Categories (Gender, Age, etc.)
- Implicit vs. Explicit Social Categorization in the Brain
- Neural Mechanisms of Group Bias and Social Identity
- The Role of the Medial Prefrontal Cortex in Group Perception
- Summary and Discussion

Week 4: Perceiving Out-Groups & Neural Bases of Race and Stereotyping

- The Neuroscience of Stereotyping and Prejudice
- Neural Correlates of Implicit Bias and Out-group Perception
- Role of the Amygdala, Insula, and Anterior Cingulate Cortex in Race Perception
- Strategies for Reducing Bias: Insights from Neuroscience
- Summary and Discussion

Week 5: Self-Regulation and Evaluative Processing & Emotional Decision-Making

- The Role of the Prefrontal Cortex in Self-Control

- Cognitive Reappraisal and Emotion Regulation in Social Contexts
- The Neuroscience of Moral Decision-Making
- How Emotions Influence Judgment and Social Choices
- Summary and Discussion

Week 6: Emotions and Social Behavior & Processing of Specific Emotions and Affect

- The Role of the Limbic System in Emotion Processing
- Social Emotions: Empathy, Guilt, Shame, and Pride
- Neural Basis of Emotional Contagion and Social Bonding
- The Impact of Social Isolation on Brain and Behavior
- Summary and Discussion

Week 7: Theory of Mind and Social Intelligence

- Understanding Others' Mental States: Neural Mechanisms
- The Role of the Temporoparietal Junction and Medial Prefrontal Cortex in Theory of Mind
- Social Intelligence: How We Predict and Interpret Others' Behavior
- Disorders of Social Cognition: Autism, Psychopathy, and Schizophrenia
- Summary and Discussion

Week 8: Social Pain & The Social Brain in Interactive Games

- The Neuroscience of Social Rejection and Exclusion
- Neural Overlap Between Physical and Social Pain
- Cooperation and Competition: The Brain in Social Decision-Making
- Game Theory, Trust, and Fairness in Social Interactions
- Summary and Discussion

This structured course will provide a deep understanding of how the brain processes social behavior, perceptions, and interactions, with real-world applications in psychology, sociology, and behavioral sciences. 🚀