Theme Overview
Many of the core problems of our time – climate change, financial crises, addiction and social inequality – arise from individuals and their choices. Brain research on cognition, emotions, expression and decision-making will be translated in this theme to address collective challenges and increase understanding of how and why our behavior influences society and vice-versa.

Theme Objectives
Bass Connections in Brain and Society will engage students and researchers to build connections between basic research in neuroscience and socially challenging questions in medicine, the humanities, public policy, economics, ethics and law. Each vertically-integrated, cross-disciplinary team will tackle a current issue relating to the brain and its link to society as a whole.

Student Activities
Students are invited to apply for teams formed around faculty-initiated projects drawing on new research and educational connections. Students may apply to the Brain & Society theme in general or to specific faculty-led teams. Students without a team affiliation may participate in co-curricular activities or take Discovery Courses. Interested students should contact Nicole Schramm-Sapyta.

Theme Requirements
No prior research experience is necessary! A typical research program will include a full-time summer experience and two academic semesters of independent study or other project work. Details will vary by project.

Expectations for Team Members
Bass Connections Brain & Society scholars typically participate in a full-time summer internship, spending six to ten weeks working with their research teams. Summer activities vary by team, and include data collection, analysis, preparation of artistic materials, etc. Students then enroll in two semesters of independent study either through Trinity/Pratt or through their chosen major, depending on the nature of the project. During the independent study periods, teams continue research or project work and meet regularly to discuss progress.

Across the theme, Brain & Society scholars also engage with one another through shared co-curricular activities such as a summer career development workshop series and other seminars and discussions. Students will present their work at the Visible Thinking Poster Session at the end of the Spring Semester.

Discovery Courses
Brain & Society offers one official Discovery Course, “Music and the Brain.” This course is offered in Spring semesters, and is open to all students. Many other courses across the university are open to students wishing to explore issues relating to the Brain & Society theme.

Contact Information
Interested students, please contact: nicole.schrammsapyta@duke.edu
Interested faculty, please contact: deborah.jenson@duke.edu
For more information and application forms: http://dibs.duke.edu/education/brain-society