

“The brain is wider than the sky.” Emily Dickinson, 1830-1886

“Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds.” Albert Einstein, 1879-1955

### **The Study of the Nervous System in Psychology**

1. Why does a course on psychology begin by examining the structures and function of the nervous system?
2. Look on the web (use Google) to find the cases of famous people who suffered from nervous system disorders. Describe the nature of their disorder and how it affected their behavior when alive as well as whether it caused them to die prematurely.
3. What is your interpretation of the quote “The brain is wider than the sky”?

### **The Neuron and the Synapse**

Ask students the following questions:

1. Are medications for psychological disorders overprescribed? (can also be used as a discussion question in class)
2. What are the implications of the fact that neurons communicate across synapses rather than being directly hard-wired?
3. What are the advantages in the nervous system of having neurons fire according to the all-or-none law?