SYLLABUS: COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

IB’s Office: HNB 316, Ext. 0-6094, bieder@usc.edu.
Time: Class meets: Mon, 2:00-5:50 PM. Room: HNB 120F

Required Text + Journal Articles (Denoted by *). Other articles (no *) are for background edification and the content not covered in class will not be explicitly tested.


Journal articles can be downloaded (in Adobe Acrobat) from the course Blackboard site. Some readings might be added during the semester.

Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on a midterm (30%) and a cumulative final examination (50%). If the class stays small, then they will be of the short essay type (paragraph or two) and some fill-ins. A large pool of questions will be distributed prior to the exam from which the questions for the exam will be sampled. Approximately, 200 points of questions will be on the exam of which only 100 need be answered. Approximately half of the exam will be composed of questions from class discussions.

Class Participation (20%): Class comments or questions that serve to illuminate the discussion or informed criticism (but not mere attendance). Good answers on those rare occasions when someone is called upon randomly also qualify.

Topics: Roughly corresponding to weeks. There will be some reordering/rescheduling of topics and possibilities of additions/subtractions of readings. The last hour of each meeting will often be devoted to overview discussions.

1. Jan 12th: No Class. To be rescheduled. (I will away on professional travel.)
   *GIM Chapters 1 Brief History. (Skim.)
   *GIM Chapter 2 Structure and Function of the Nervous System. (We will not cover the specifics of the molecular biology, e.g., of the cell membrane, ion channels, and neurotransmitters on pp. 28-36 but do understand the general principles).

2. Jan 19th Introduction. No Class. MLK day.

GIM Chapter 4. Methods of Cognitive Neuroscience. Rather than discuss methods devoid of substantive issues, we will consider them as they arise in particular domains.
*GIM Chapter 5. Sensation and Perception.


6. Feb 16th. Higher Level Vision II: Faces, Subordinate-Level Recognition; Scenes; Prosopagnosia vs. Phonagnosia

*GIM. Chapter 7. Attention
*GIM. Chapter 4. Hemispheric Specialization
*GIM. Chapter 14. Consciousness.

8. Mar 2nd. Action
*GIM. Chapter 8. Action

*GIM Chapter 9. Memory.


11. Mar 23rd Midterm (30%)

12. Mar 30th: Emotion
*GIM. Chapter 10. Emotion.
   *GIM. Chapter 11. Language.

   *GIM. Chapter 12. Cognitive Control.


16. April 27. Catch Up, Overview Discussion, and/or Final Exam (50%)

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Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. Their phone number is (213) 740-0776.