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 from the course Blackboard site. Some readings may be added during the semester.

Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on two midterms (35% each) and class participation (see below). If the class stays small, then the exams will be of the short essay type (paragraph) and some fill-ins. A large pool of questions will be distributed prior to each exam from which about 70% of the questions on the exam will be sampled. There will be a choice on the exam as to what questions need be answered (e.g., 200 points of questions of which only 100 need be answered.) More than half of the exam will be composed of questions from class lectures/discussions.

Class Participation (30%): 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. On the last class (Apr. 27) there will student presentations (~20 min each) in which a topic from the course material is discussed/analyzed with respect to the relations to the student’s own research or their interest in a particular topic.

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.

   *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 16th: 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.


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

   *GIM. Chapter 7. Attention  
   *GIM. Chapter 8. Action

8. Feb 20th. President’s Day. No class.

   *GIM Chapter 9. Memory.

10. Mar 6. Mar 23rd First Midterm (30%)


12. Mar 20th: Emotion  
   *GIM. Chapter 10. Emotion.  
of mirth. *Cerebral Cortex, 62, 35-43. Link:  

*GIM. Chapter 11. Language.  

*GIM. Chapter 12. Cognitive Control.  


15. April 20: 2nd Midterm (35%)

16. April 27. Student Presentations (30%). Recap.

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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.