**BISC 462: Seminar in Neurobiology. Making Sense of it All: The Neurobiological Basis of the Senses.**

This course covers the primary scientific literature on the cellular and molecular basis for our senses. The goal of the course is to provide the student with the specific details on how seminal discoveries were made and the scientific process that went into each study. Each week two students will present on a specific topic, with one student providing a general overview of the specific form of sensation being considered, followed by a second student presenting the selected paper. Assistance will be provided on the background discussion, paper presentation, and knowledge base for the scientific basis for the work. Students not presenting are expected to read each weeks paper in detail, as well as be prepared to ask questions and discuss the work in class. This is a participation course so participation is a must!

**Course Coordinator:**

David McKemy, PhD

Associate Professor, Neurobiology

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Phone: (213) 821-5724

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**Textbook:** None

**Time and Place:** Fridays 2 pm – 3:50 pm, HNB 120

**Grading:** The grades for the course will be determined by the paper presentation (70%), class participation (20%), and questions (10%). Every student must bring 2 questions about the paper being presented to be discussed each class. After the class, the questions will be collected and graded.

**Students with Disabilities:** 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 one of the instructors as early in the semester as possible. Disability Services and Programs is located in Student Union 301 and their phone number is (213) 740-0776.

**Statement on academic integrity:** USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

**Disclaimer:** It may be necessary to make some changes in the syllabus during the semester.