SYLLABUS: INTRODUCTION TO COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

IB’s Office: HNB 316, Best way to contact me: bieder@usc.edu
Contact hours: By appointment. Email me. You will find me quite responsive.

**Time:** Class meets: Mon, Wed 2:00-3:50 PM. **Room:** HNB 100 (Hedco Auditorium)
We will have a 10-min break at 3 PM.


**Journal Articles.** Articles are for background edification and will not be explicitly tested.

**Evaluation:** Evaluation will be based on three midterms (20% each) and a cumulative final examination (40%). All the exams will be multiple choice and will tend to assess conceptual understanding rather than rote memorization. However, there are specific facts and terms that are the intellectual currency in all sciences so those will be tested as well. Approximately 60-70% of the exam will be composed of questions from class lectures/PowerPoints. We will try to have a 4-6 PM review session following the class immediately prior to each exam. I will also distribute a study guide about a week or two prior to each exam.

If **you miss an exam:** There is no definite penalty but a probabilistic one: If you have taken all three midterms and you are near a grade cutoff (e.g., by 3 or 4 points in your average grade), you will get the higher grade. If you miss a midterm, you will get the lower grade. (You have to take the final.) Unless you are running a high A, there is a real possibility that missing an exam will cost you a grade, e.g., from an A- to a B+. We cannot evaluate the adequacy of excuses.

**Extra credit (Class Participation):** (up to 3%) will be awarded for 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 but poor class decorum, e.g., Irrelevant or distracting behavior (e.g., social networking; texting; viewing non-class related material; talking, etc.) will result in negative participation credit.

**Extra credit (Research Participation):** (Up to 3%). For participating in research studies through the Psych Departments SONA subject pool system or a select few other studies. To earn course extra credit, all participation must be accompanied by a “reflection” on the experience (~.75 to 1 page/study). The reflection could include a linking of the study to course concepts, an informed critique of the study, or an informed personal revelation based on course concepts.

**Final Exam:** Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019, 2-4 PM, in HNB 100 (Regular classroom).

**Topics:** Roughly corresponding to weeks. There will be some reordering/rescheduling of topics and possibilities of additions/subtractions of readings.

   *GIM Chapter 5. Sensation & Perception. Skip sections 5.2 (Olfaction), 5.3 (Taste), and 5.8 (Multimodal perception).

   Sept. 2: Labor Day. No Class.


5. Sept 23: First Midterm (20%).

   *GIM. Chapter 7. Attention

   *GIM. Chapter 8. Action

   *GIM Chapter 9. Memory.

   *GIM. Chapter 10. Emotion.

10. Oct. 23: 2nd Midterm (20%).


   *GIM. Chapter 11. Language.

   *GIM. Chapter 12. Cognitive Control.


15. Nov. 25th: 3rd Midterm (20%)

16. Nov. 27: No class.


   Friday, December 13th, 2-4 PM, CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM (40%)
   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.