SYLLABUS: INTRODUCTION TO COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

IB's Office: HNB 316, Ext. 0-6094, bieder@usc.edu.
TA: Xiaokun Xu: Office: HNB 316, Ext, 0-6102, xiaokunx@usc.edu
Time: Class meets: Thursday 3:30-7:20 PM. Room: GFS 101

**Required Text + Journal Articles (Denoted by *)**. Other articles (no *) are for background edification.


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

**Evaluation**: Evaluation will be based on class participation (comments or questions that serve to illuminate the discussion or informed criticism) (5%), two midterms (30% for the first; 20% for the second) and a cumulative final examination (45%). A large pool of possible exam questions will be made available prior to each exam. Approximately 70% of the exam will be composed of questions from this pool. Students can earn up to 3% extra credit by participating in the Psychology Department’s Subject Pool at the rate of 1% for each “hour’s” worth of participation. (Some short web questionnaire studies only yield .5 hour’s credit.) To obtain this credit, for each experiment or questionnaire, you are to assume some intellectual “ownership” of the experience by writing a brief reflection. Such reflections could be informed criticism (given the goals of the study as obtained through the feedback) or a description of how the study might be related to course concepts.

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

   *GIM Chapters 1 Brief History. (Skim.)
   *GIM Chapter 2 Cellular Mechanisms. (You will not be tested on the molecular biology, e.g., of the cell membrane, ion channels, and neurotransmitters, and the math modeling of electrical activity).

2. **Sept 6**: Sensation and Perception. Early sensory processing. How to get the visual world into the head. Methodologies.
*GIM Chapter 4. Methods of Cognitive Neuroscience
*GIM Chapter 5. Sensation and Perception.


5. Sept 27. First Midterm Exam (30%)

*GIM. Chapter. 12. Attention & Consciousness

*GIM. Chapter 8. Learning and Memory.

8. Oct 25: Second Midterm Exam (20%)

*GIM. Chapter 10. Language.
   *GIM. Chapter 7. The Control of Action.
   *GIM. Chapter 11 Hemispheric Specialization.


   *GIM. Chapter 13.

   *GIM. Chapters 14. Social Cognition

   *GIM. Chapter 15. Evolutionary Perspectives.

   **Tuesday, December 18th, 2-4 PM, FINAL EXAM (45%)**

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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.