

PSYCH 506: Core Concepts in Cognitive Neuroscience

Professors Lee Osterhout & Scott Murray

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Class time: Monday, Wed 12:00 to 1:20

Class location: PAA A214

Text: Optional text: “Cognitive Neuroscience: The biology of the mind” (3rd Ed., 2002) by Gazzaniga, Ivry, and Mangun

Readings: on class website (<http://faculty.washington.edu/sommurray/psych506>)

Course overview:

The course covers the relationship between neural and cognitive processes such as perception, attention, memory, and language. The course emphasizes theory: what does it mean to “understand the neural mechanisms” of a cognitive process? The class also emphasizes methodology: what are the tools of the trade and how to identify when they are being used well.

Grading

Grading will be based on four 2-page “Position Papers”. These papers will require you to take a stand on a topic of current theoretical debate in Cognitive Neuroscience. Though relatively short in length, each paper will demand efficient and thoughtful writing – boiling down the debate to its essence, and, based on logic and empirical evidence, presenting your argument clearly and concisely.

Discussions

Most Wednesday sessions will be devoted to organized class discussion of relevant articles and issues from lecture.