SOCIAL COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE
SPRING 2013
LA KRETZ 110 & MON/WED 3:30-4:45

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Course Overview: This class will focus on the principles of social cognitive neuroscience (SCN) and survey a broad array of topics in the field. SCN is a fundamental merging of social science questions and neuroscience methods, with particular emphasis on fMRI.

Readings: For this class you will read a set of papers each week relating to that week’s topic

PowerPoint Slides: I will post the powerpoint slides from my lecture after each lecture. Please do not ask me to post these slides before class because there are important reasons for why I wait until after class. I know from having taught classes at UCLA for over a decade that if you download the slides after class and have the podcasts (http://www.bruincast.ucla.edu/), you’ll be fine.

Grades: Midterm (50%), Final (50%). The exams are not cumulative. Each exam will consist of multiple choice items. Grades will be based on a curve using the following structure. First I will take the average of the top 10 final scores in the class. This average score becomes the equivalent of a 100%. For instance if this top 10 average is a 97/100 then an A- will be 90% of a 97, and B+ will be 88% of a 97, and so on. This provides you with a curve such that you aren’t penalized for hard questions that no one gets right, but it also allows every person in the class to get an A if they do sufficiently well. You can get up to 1.5 pts of extra credit (see below). These points get added after your full score has been computed. So if you have an 88.5 and do the full extra credit that bumps up to a 90.0 and you get an A-.

Extra Credit: You have the opportunity to earn 1.5 extra credit point(s) by participating in experiments through the Psychology Department Subject Pool. Serving as a subject in an experiment provides students with direct exposure to psychological research. By participating in experiments, you will have the opportunity to contribute to on-going research at UCLA while getting an inside glimpse of how research studies are conducted.

One-half point is added to your final total for every hour of experiment participation. If you complete 3 hour(s) of experiment(s), you will have 1.5 points added to your final “out of 100” grade at the end of the quarter.

The posting and scheduling of experiments is handled via the Psychology Department Subject Pool system at http://ucla.sona-systems.com. More information on how to use the system can be found at http://www.psych.ucla.edu/undergraduate/subject-pool-experiment-participation.
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<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: April 1</td>
<td>Why are we social?</td>
<td>Cognitive Neuroscience Methods &amp; Anatomy</td>
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<td>Week 2: April 8</td>
<td>Social Pain</td>
<td>Social Reward</td>
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<td>Week 3: April 15</td>
<td>No class</td>
<td>Social Perception</td>
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<td>Week 4: April 22</td>
<td>Mentalizing</td>
<td>Mirror Neurons</td>
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<td>Week 5: April 29</td>
<td>Mindreading</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Week 6: May 6</td>
<td>Empathy</td>
<td>Autism</td>
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<td>Week 7: May 13</td>
<td>Self</td>
<td>Self-control</td>
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<td>Week 8: May 20</td>
<td>No class</td>
<td>Emotion regulation</td>
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<td>Week 9: May 27</td>
<td>Memorial Day (no class)</td>
<td>Persuasion</td>
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<td>Week 10: June 3</td>
<td>Neuroeconomics</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Final exam: In class during week 10
Lecture slides posted at: [www.ccle.ucla.edu](http://www.ccle.ucla.edu)
My book *Social: Why Our Brains Are Wired to Connect* will be used throughout the syllabus and referred to as “Social”.

Readings for each week

**Week 1:**


*Social* (Chapter 2) “The Brain’s Passion”


**Week 2:**


*Social* (Chapter 4) “Fairness Tastes Like chocolate”

**Week 3:**


**Week 4:**


**Week 5:**


*Social* (Chapter 6) “Mirror, Mirror”

**Week 6:**


*Social* (chapter 7) “Peaks and Valleys”
Week 7:


*Social (Ch 9) Panoptic Self-Control*

Week 8:


Week 9:


Week 10: