

SPLH 764

SEMINAR IN COMMUNICATION NEUROSCIENCE (3 CREDITS)

Spring 2005

Class Meetings: Wednesday 9-11:50 DHDC 3049

Class Instructor: Ed Auer; auer@ku.edu; 864-1460, 864-1461

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30-3:30 Haworth 4115

Monday 11:00 –12:00 Haworth 4115

Additional times available by appointment

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the cognitive neuroscience of human communication. The first part of the course will cover basic neuroanatomy and introduce research methods specific to investigating the cognitive neuroscience of human communication. The second half of the course will provide a survey of current research in the field. The exact focus will depend in part on the interests of the students enrolled.

Course Objective

At the end of this course it is anticipated that students will be able to:

1. Identify basic cortical anatomy relevant to human communication.
 - What cortical structures are we linking behavior to?
2. Describe currently used research techniques in cognitive neuroscience, including relative advantages and disadvantages.
 - How are data acquired? What are the assumptions underlying its acquisition? How is it analyzed?
3. Describe the current understanding of the cognitive neuroscience of human communication.
4. Critique a published article in cognitive neuroscience studies of human communication.
5. Propose new research within the domain of cognitive neuroscience.

Course Materials

Readings associated lectures and other course materials will be made available on the Blackboard course website <http://courseware.ku.edu>

Requirements

Students will be required to make a 30 minute presentation in class discussing a pertinent article (set with the Instructor). This presentation will form 20% of the final mark.

Students will also be asked to submit two written assignments. The first will be a 2000 word critique of a communication neuroscience paper which will constitute 30% of the

final mark and the second will be a 5000 word proposal for an fMRI experiment. This will constitute the 40% of the final mark. Class participation and attendance will constitute the remaining 10% of the final mark. Detailed outlines of the written assignments will be distributed in class.

Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to observe all University guidelines pertaining to academic misconduct. As stated in the University Senate Rules and Regulations (2.6.1):

“Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work; unauthorized changing of grades; unauthorized use of University approvals or forging of signatures; falsification of research results; plagiarizing of another's work; violation of regulations or ethical codes for the treatment of human and animal subjects; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research.”

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with University rules and regulations.

Accommodations

The staff of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), 135 Strong, 785-864-2620 (v/tty), coordinates accommodations and services for KU courses. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in KU classes and have not contacted them, please do so as soon as possible. Please also notify the instructor in writing (e-mail is acceptable) within one week of receiving this syllabus so that appropriate accommodations for this course can be discussed.

If a scheduled exam or assignment due date is in conflict with a mandated religious observance, you must notify the instructor in writing (e-mail is acceptable) within one week of receiving this syllabus so that an alternative arrangement can be made in advance of the scheduled requirement.

Grading

The University has prescribed definitions for grades. The University Senate Rules and Regulations define grades in the following way:

- 1.2.1.1 The grade of A will be reported for achievement of outstanding quality.
- 1.2.1.2 The grade of B will be reported for achievement of high quality.
- 1.2.1.3 The grade of C will be reported for achievement of acceptable quality.
- 1.2.1.4 The grade of D will be reported for achievement of minimally passing but less than acceptable quality.

In this course, quality of achievement will be evaluated through your performance on:

Presentation	20 %
Critique	30 %
Proposal	40 %
Participation	10 %

If your level of achievement during this course is falling short of your goal, you are strongly encouraged to consult with the instructor during office hours or by appointment to improve the quality of your learning of course material.

Course Schedule