FINAL EXAM GUIDELINES

Final exams must be received at nb204homework[at]gmail.com by 2pm on Monday, May 3. It is your responsibility to make sure that your assignment is received by the deadline. Therefore, you are advised to send your assignment a few hours prior to the deadline, and if you don’t receive a bounce-back message it’s your obligation to find a solution.

Your assignment is to write a full summary (800-1000 words) plus a critical assessment (>300 words) of one of the six papers listed below. Your assignment will be graded based on the following criteria:

• Did you convey what is most important in this paper by focusing primarily on the major questions/goals/experiments/conclusions?
• Did you accurately describe the logic and rationale underlying the major component(s) of the study?
• Did you clearly describe the implications and significance of major experimental results?
• Did you identify a substantive problem or concern regarding the study’s design, methodology, analysis, interpretation, or significance? The paper you evaluating is not necessarily deeply flawed, so you shouldn’t feel the need to identify a fatal error; however, every one of these papers can be criticized at least in a limited way, and we would like to see evidence that you have thought deeply about the shortcomings of the paper you are evaluating.
• Did you state the specific implications of the problem(s) you identify, and did you describe the outlook for potential solutions?

Choose one of these papers for your assignment (posted at http://wilson.med.harvard.edu/nb204):


   In mammals, the superior colliculus has been primarily associated with planning or executing orienting movements, such as saccades that bring the eyes to a new target. In a recent report, Lovejoy and Krauzlis (2010) presented evidence that the monkey superior colliculus is important for perceptual judgements independent of orientation movements. In the summary portion of your essay, you should focus on the most important aspects of their experiments, in particular the aspects of the design and analysis that allows a dissociation between perceptual judgements and motor responses.


   In the critical assessment portion of your essay, please pay particular attention to the question of whether this indicator has any effects on neuronal health, and what this might imply for experiments using this indicator.


