Psych 202: Cognitive Neuroscience
Background questionnaire survey

Please complete the following. This is not a test, so if you do not know the answer to a question, "I do not know" is perfectly fine. The purpose is for us to understand better your interests and background so that we can better tailor the course to meet your needs. This is mandatory, but will not be graded.

Name	Area of focus	Year
Dan Birman	Neuro	PhD

How did you hear about this class and why did you enroll?
Required

What expectations do you have for what you want to get from taking this class?
No expectations

Briefly (1 sentence) describe your main area of research focus.

Currently looking at whether 'attention' and 'awareness' are two words we used to describe the same neural activity.

Have you read any of the assigned papers before? If so, which ones? If you read many of them, just stating many or all is fine.
Many, definitely not all.

Quantitative background

We will read papers and do tutorials that contain varying degrees of quantitative treatment. We are not expecting that you come into the class able to understand all of these, rather we will be working over the quarter to develop your skills in reading and understanding papers even if you are not initially familiar with quantitative or theoretical issues touched on by the paper.

What math, statistics, engineering or computer science courses have you taken (can be from any department - e.g. stats course in psychology)?

252, 254, calculus and linear algebra, discrete mathematics, obj oriented programming, functional prog, AI/machine learning

Do you know how to computer program? If so, what languages have you used and rate how familiar you feel with that language (1-5 where 1=like speaking english, 3=write programs every now and then 5=wrote a program once or twice for a class or other purpose)
Java 3, python 3, matlab 3, c++ 3, javascript 3

Describe your quantitative background, circling answers in the below sets of questions (if more than one answer applies, then feel free to circle more than one).

How do you prefer quantitative principles be communicated to you?
1) I prefer seeing all the equations
2) I prefer a description of the calculation in words
3) I would rather not have information put in the form of equations
4) I like to see quantitative concepts put into a visual form

How confident are you about your quantitative background and skill set?
1) I am highly confident of my quantitative skills
2) Leave me alone! I am not confident about my quantitative skills!
3) When I need to do a quantitative analysis (like compute a statistic I have not used before), I am able to figure out what needs to be done and do it.
4) I am not very confident about my quantitative skills, but when given the chance and time to understand a mathematical concept, I am able to do so
5) I am able to preform the types of quantitative analyses and statistics that come up frequently in my area of research
6) My area of research does not require very much quantitative analysis

Describe the state of your interest in learning new analytic concepts that relate to cognitive neuroscience
1) There are many areas of math and statistics that I lack background in, but I'm learning about them or have an interest in learning more
2) I have reasonably extensive math/statistical background and am able to learn the things I need to learn on my own
3) I have no interest in expanding my math/statistics background
4) I enjoy learning about math, but have not done so recently
5) I do not enjoy learning about math and statistics and have avoided doing so

Tell us about your relationship to computer programming
1) I enjoy computer programming
2) I have not done enough computer programming to know
3) I hate computer programming
4) Neither here nor there

How do you learn about new quantitative concepts when you need to?
1) Read a textbook
2) Take a class
3) University of google and wikipedia
4) Write my own computer program to try it out
5) Ask others what to do
6) Read primary literature or review papers

What types of quantitative analyses do you have experience performing? (Circle all that apply)
1) None
2) Calculator or pen/paper calculations
3) Excel spreadsheet
4) Statistical analysis software
5) Graphing data
6) Using computer programs others have written to analyze data
7) Using R or Matlab (or other) to compute parametric statistics and p-values
8) Using R or Matlab to run bootstraps, permutation analyses or cross-validations
9) Fitting regression (or similar) models to data using R, Matlab or other
10) Writing computer programs to perform custom computations and models