Paper 1 Due Monday April 10

For Paper 1, I would like you to come up with your own hypothetical case history of a patient with some type of neurological problem or problems. This problem can be anything, *as long as it affects the brain in some way, and as long as it can be found somewhere in our text book*. In your paper, include the patient’s symptoms and problems. Give some clues as to the source of the problem, but don’t explain it outright. Try to avoid writing your case so your reader could diagnose it after reading it just once or twice- make it a bit challenging. On the other hand, it should not be so difficult that it is almost impossible to diagnose. The second part of this paper will be a diagnosis of the problem, along with a discussion of other things the problem could be mistaken for, and why those are not the correct diagnoses.

**Bring to class:**

On the due date, you will bring your *printed* paper and an extra copy of the case history to class. The case history will be given to one of your classmates (by me). This case history will not include a references page and of course will not tell what the diagnosis is. The actual paper that I will grade will include **both** the case history and the diagnosis. For my version, make clear where the case history ends (so I know what your classmate had to work with.)

I expect you to use several other sources besides books we are reading in class. At least one of these other sources must be a primary source (a journal article). Be careful of inadvertent plagiarism. If you use the same words that are used in the book or article you are quoting from, you must include quotations and a page number (in APA style). For the diagnosis, **when you are describing possible sources of damage or areas of the nervous system affected, go into a lot of detail – more detail than you can find in our text!** Just saying “the hippocampus was affected” is **not** enough. Describe possible pathways or circuits or types of neurons that might be affected. Also, tell what your problem might be confused with or mistaken for and explain why it can’t be that; frequently, the same symptoms may be caused by a variety of different problems. In short, *be thorough*.

*Paper 1 will be graded on: creativity of case, ability to adequately describe symptoms and clues to the problem, detailed description of areas of the nervous system affected, and how exactly they are affected (what is going on at the level of the neurons), how your reader should be able to rule out other related problems, writing (including sentence structure, typos, etc.), and references*. Please put your references in APA style.

Paper 2

For the second paper, you will assess the case history you have been given. Attempting to find out who’s case study you have and discussing it with that person will be considered a violation of the Honor Code and will be treated accordingly.

You will describe the major symptoms of the patient, your diagnosis (including how and why you ruled out other possibilities), a detailed discussion of the possible brain areas and/or neural circuits affected (using other sources besides the text), and your recommendation for treatment. Try to come up with some sort of treatment, even if there is no “cure” for the problem. *Paper 2 will be graded on detailed information on major symptoms, diagnosis and your reasoning behind it, how you ruled out other related problems, the areas of the brain or nervous system affected and how they are affected, your treatment recommendation, quality of your writing, and references in APA style*.