Introduction to Cognitive Science: Outline of Lecture

1. Background on Cognitive Science
   - The delicate balance between the common-sensical and the barely-believable.
     - The truth of folk psychology vs the misleadingness of being the subject/object of study
     - Examples of folk-psychology explanations: What’s right about them & what’s wrong about them?
   - The intentionality of explanations: Need for “propositional attitude verbs” such as believes-that, fears-that, wants-that, thinks-that, imagines-that, etc and the mystery of semantic contents.
   - The seductiveness of conscious content and the ineffableness of non-conscious content and process. Are we infallible judges of what we know or experience?

2. What is cognition?
   - Why is it hard to study cognition?
   - What’s special about intelligent behavior?
   - The Description-relativity of explanations: Equivalence Classes
     - Special role of meaning in explaining intelligent action
   - Central role of Representations: Examples
     - Compatibility with materialism: The Computational Theory of Mind (CTM)

3. Computational Theory of Mind
   - Tri-Level Hypothesis & The Physical Symbol System Hypothesis
   - Symbolic representation vs architecture & Capacity
   - Strong equivalence
     - Examples & Methods
   - Failure to distinguish capacity from representation-governed behavior: Cognitive Pentrability
     - Some examples: Language understanding, mental imagery