

RuCCS Marquee Course Series:

Making a Mind with a Brain:

from infants to adults in humans and animals

Course Aims:

Where does our knowledge come from? What are the ontogenetic and phylogenetic origins of human thinking? **In this course we will explore the origins of human knowledge using a comparative approach to behavioral neuroscience and developmental science.**

Course Information:

SP22: 16:830:637/638 (Psych) & 16:185:600:01 (Cog Sci)

Time/Day: Wednesdays 2-5pm

Format: Hybrid (in person + remote)

Open to all students with special permission of instructor(s)

Instructors:

Prof. Kasia Bieszczad: kasia.bie@rutgers.edu

Prof. Jenny Wang: jinjing.jenny.wang@rutgers.edu

Course Structure and Requirements:

The class will meet once a week for 3 hours (intro + lecture + discussion). Readings will be assigned ahead of time for each class. The course will open with students writing an opinion paper on their definition of “mind” and whether or not “mind” can be attributed to humans and animals. This paper will be graded pass/fail and counts for 30% of final grade. Students will also submit questions for the lecturers and guest speakers each week. The questions will be graded pass/fail and counts for 30% of the final grade. The course will close with students writing a reflection paper following a News and Views format and developed with ideas and evidence gained from classroom discussions. The reflection paper will be graded and counts for 40% of final grade.

Schedule:

*subject to change

1/19 What is a human mind? What is an animal mind? What properties do they share (if any)?

The Baby Lab. The New Yorker. 2006.

1/26 Nature vs. Nurture: Where does knowledge come from?

Wang, J., & Feigenson, L. (2019). Is empiricism innate? Preference for nurture over nature in people's beliefs about the origins of human knowledge. Open Mind, 3, 89-100.

2/2 Consciousness: Might the mind and the brain tell us different things? (Guest Speaker confirmed)

Block, N. (1995). On a confusion about a function of consciousness. Behavioral and brain sciences, 18(2), 227-247.

2/9 Seeing and hearing: How do we sense the world?

Fantz, R. L. (1964). Visual experience in infants: Decreased attention to familiar patterns relative to novel ones. Science, 146(3644), 668-670.

2/16 Learning and memory: Do we all start with a tabula rasa?

Rovee-Collier, C. K., Sullivan, M. W., Enright, M., Lucas, D., & Fagen, J. W. (1980). Reactivation of infant memory. Science, 208(4448), 1159-1161.

2/23 Sleep and dreaming: What is it good for?

Walker, M. P., & Stickgold, R. (2006). Sleep, memory, and plasticity. Annu. Rev. Psychol., 57, 139-166.

3/2 Space and quantity: Analog or digital? (Guest Speaker confirmed)

Gallistel, C. R. (2020). Where meanings arise and how: Building on Shannon's foundations. Mind & Language, 35(3), 390-401.

3/9 Language and music 1: Are they uniquely human?

Di Liberto, G. M., Pelofi, C., Bianco, R., Patel, P., Mehta, A. D., Herrero, J. L., ... & Mesgarani, N. (2020). Cortical encoding of melodic expectations in human temporal cortex. Elife, 9, e51784.

Spring Break

3/23 Language and music 2: Are they uniquely human? (guest speaker confirmed)

Bergelson, E., & Aslin, R. N. (2017). Nature and origins of the lexicon in 6-mo-olds. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 114(49), 12916-12921.

3/30 Mind and the brain 1: What happens when something goes wrong? (guest speaker confirmed)

Landau, B., Gleitman, H., & Spelke, E. (1981). Spatial knowledge and geometric representation in a child blind from birth. Science, 213(4513), 1275-1278.

4/6 Mind and the brain 2: What happens when something goes wrong?

Feinberg, A. P. (2007). Phenotypic plasticity and the epigenetics of human disease. Nature, 447(7143), 433-440.

4/13 Emotions 1: Where do feelings come from? (Guest Speaker confirmed)

DeLoache, J. S., & LoBue, V. (2009). The narrow fellow in the grass: Human infants associate snakes and fear. Developmental science, 12(1), 201-207.

4/20 Emotions 2: Where do feelings come from?

Pape, H. C., & Pare, D. (2010). Plastic synaptic networks of the amygdala for the acquisition, expression, and extinction of conditioned fear. Physiological reviews, 90(2), 419-463.

4/27 Closing session addressing the distinctions/non-distinctions between humans and animals

Current Academic Integrity Policy:

Summary: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/>

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, having someone else complete your course work, and facilitating violations of academic integrity by others.

Resources for Students: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students/>

List of Required Books &/or Materials

No required textbook.

All readings will be articles or book chapters available in PDF format, posted on Canvas.

Self-Reporting Absence Application:

Lecture attendance is mandatory as lectures will cover material that is not presented in your readings. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to obtain the notes. You should plan to do all of the assigned reading because the material in the readings may not be covered in lecture. Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Mask Requirement

In order to protect the health and well-being of all members of the University community, masks must be worn by all persons on campus when in the presence of others (within six feet) and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Masks must be worn during class meetings; any student not wearing a mask will be asked to leave.

Masks should conform to CDC guidelines and should completely cover the nose and mouth: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app.

Student-Wellness Services

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/

<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis

intervention, referral to specialists in the community, and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Crisis Intervention :

<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/crisis-intervention/>

Report a Concern: <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.