

The Concept of Concept in Cognitive Science

Rutgers University

Summer 2021

Instructors

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Schedule

Zoom Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 pm.

Office hours: By appointment

Course Description

What is a concept? An idea, an insight, a theory? The way our mind organizes the world, including the mental categories with which we represent it, is a central topic in cognitive science. This course aims to introduce you to the study of concepts from a broad interdisciplinary point of view, surveying how concepts are understood in the various sub-disciplines of cognitive science, including Psychology, Philosophy, and Neuroscience. The emphasis is on both the diversity of conceptions of “concepts” in cognitive science, as well as on core principles they all share.

Grading

20 % Perusall annotations Each annotation is worth 2 points, and you can get up to 22 points. This portion of the grade will be calculated by dividing the total number of points by 20. So if you complete all annotations and get full credit, you'll get extra credit.

20 % Attendance & class activities. This includes participation in class, class discussion, group assignments, forum posts, etc.

30 % Midterm. In class.

30 %: Final.

Schedule

Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 June 2nd	Background What are Concepts?	Murphy (Introduction) SEP article on concepts	
Week 2 June 7th June 9th	The Classical View	Murphy (Chapter 2) Rosch & Mervis (1975) Optional: Williams & Lombrozo (2010)	

<p>Week 3</p> <p>July 14th</p> <p>July 16th</p>	<p>Models of Categorization</p> <p>Neural Basis of Categorization</p>	<p>Murphy (Chapters 3 & 4)</p> <p>Ashby, F. G. and Ell, S. (2001)</p>	
<p>Week 4</p> <p>June 21st</p> <p>June 23rd</p>	<p>Atomism/LoT</p>	<p>Fodor & Lepore (1996) Optional: My notes on LoT</p> <p>Quilty-Dunn (2020) Background: Camp (2009)</p>	
<p>Week 5</p> <p>June 28th</p> <p>June 30th</p>	<p>Concept Learning</p>	<p>Margolis & Laurence Sections 1-3 (Optional: Sections 4 & 5)</p>	<p>Midterm</p>
<p>Week 6</p> <p>July 5th</p> <p>July 7th</p>	<p>Concept Learning</p>	<p>No class</p> <p>Carey (2009), Carey (2014)</p>	

Week 7		Ojalehto & Medin (2015) Ji, Zhang & Nisbett (2004)	
July 12th	Social Dimensions of Concepts		
July 14th		Haslanger (2021)	
Review		No reading	Final Exam/paper

Class Policies

- Read the papers carefully and come to class prepared to ask/answer questions about the paper. I recommend that you devote between 2 and 4 hours to each reading.
- Have the class readings (and your notes) available during class.
- If you have questions about the course (either logistics or content), ask after class or send us a Canvas message.
- We realize that COVID-19 is continuously affecting your lives in many ways. If you have special circumstances, we'll be able to grant you extensions. Please get in touch with me before the deadline.
- We expect you to be familiar with and to abide by Rutgers' policy on academic and intellectual integrity (integrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy). Violations of this policy include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.
- To participate, please use the raise hand function.

Advice: If you want to enjoy this class and do well, put your phone away during class activities, close browser tabs unrelated to the class, and block notifications on your laptop. We strongly encourage you to have your video on during zoom meetings as much as possible.

Student-Wellness Services

Just In Case Web App: <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

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.

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/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.