

Syllabus

Undergraduate Seminar in Cognitive Science

01: 185: 411

Logistics

- Class: TUES 11.00AM–12.15 PM, [Zoom link](#) [password: 411]
- Recitation 1: THURS 10.05AM–11.00AM, [Zoom link](#) [password: 411]
- Recitation 2: THURS 11.45PM–12.40PM, [Zoom link](#) [password: 411]
- Faculty Organizer: DR. MARY RIGDON
 - Email: mrigdon@rutgers.edu
 - Office Hours: TBA AND BY APPOINTMENT [Zoom link for office hours](#) [password:rigdon]
- Teaching Assistant: JOSEPH SUMMER
 - Email: js2409@scarletmail.rutgers.edu
 - Office Hours: TBA AND BY APPOINTMENT

An Important Note from Snoop Dogg on the Syllabus

[Snoop Dogg says “Read the syllabus!”](#)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the field of Cognitive Science. To capture the interdisciplinary nature of this field, we will address a range of topics and research programs from a variety of disciplines, including philosophy, computer science, cognitive psychology, behavioral economics, and linguistics. Each week features a new speaker from the Center for Cognitive Science. The last page of the syllabus provides a schedule. If you open the syllabus using a document preview, clicking on the speaker’s name will bring up the person’s webpage.

The goals of this course are to introduce you to the foundations of Cognitive Science, help you appreciate the development of this field over the years, and allow you to explore the investigations and lively debates that have taken place within and across the disciplines that make up the field.

The pre-requisite is 185:201 or being assigned a permission number. This course counts for 4 credits.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

- learn in more detail what Cognitive Science is as a discipline.
- be able to critically review a research article, and use this skill to keep up with current information and to read critically other material as well.
- become familiar with Rutgers faculty and their research, and to use that as a foundation for doing undergraduate research and/or an individualized major.
- learn to extrapolate from and expand upon information learned in the class in order to apply it to other areas in Cognitive Science and science in general.
- be able to read and discuss research papers from multiple disciplines.

Required Readings

There is no textbook for this course. The required readings will be posted in the Resources Section on the Canvas website for this course by the date and speaker. You will receive an email from Canvas once the readings are posted. Please be sure to check your email! Most listed readings will be articles by the faculty who will give the lecture for a given date. You are required to read the paper(s) *before* class and then *re-read it* after the lecture in time for recitation on Thursday of the same week. You will receive a set of Discussion Questions based on the readings for each lecture that will be used for discussion during recitation. Please come to recitation prepared to discuss the answers.

Synchronous Lectures

Class will meet synchronously **Tuesday 11am-12:15pm** via Zoom. While not required, attendance at lecture is strongly encouraged if you can attend. It is an opportunity for you to hear about the speaker's current research and help you in answering your discussion questions. **Recordings of the lectures will be posted on Canvas.**

- [Zoom link for classes](#) [password: 411]

Zoom link and password also available on Canvas under Modules and Pages.

Synchronous Recitation Sections

Joseph will hold recitations as scheduled on Thursdays using Zoom. While not required, recitation attendance is strongly encouraged if you can attend. It is an opportunity for you to go over the week's discussion questions.

- Section 1: [Zoom link](#) [password: 411]
- Section 2: [Zoom link](#) [password: 411]

Zoom link and password also available on Canvas under Modules and Pages.

Technological Requirements

Please visit the [Rutgers Student Tech Guide](#) page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of Students deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the [Office of Financial Aid](#).

Any live lectures, all recitations, and all office hours will be conducted using **Zoom**. You do not need to purchase any software to join a meeting or a videocall. Basic information about Zoom can be found here:

- <https://zoom.us/meetings>

You can join a meeting or videocall by either downloading (free!) the Zoom app or by launching it in a browser.¹ You can sign up for a free Zoom account if you want to, but it isn't necessary.²

NOTE: Class meetings and recitation sections on Zoom (including video, audio, and chat text) will be recorded.

An important note about video: Please turn on your video when possible. It is helpful to be able to see each other, just as in an in-person class. Exceptions: If you have limited internet bandwidth or no webcam, it is ok to not use video or if you're unable to find an environment without a lot of visual distractions, it is also ok to turn off your video.

Please make use of the next few days to see what set-up works for you. Please learn how to unmute yourself and also turn on your video. I can't promise that things will always go smoothly (e.g. I hear that this week Zoom had massive outages as schools resumed classes), but I will try my best to have things run as smoothly as can be expected under the circumstances.

Evaluation

There will be a total of 1000 points possible in this course.

- Short Critical/Analytic Assignments (70%) (700 points; 70 points per assignment):
Each week you will receive a set of Discussion Questions based on the readings and a second (usually shorter) set after lecture. Answers are to be short/concise — at most several paragraphs. You can work in groups of up to 4 people. Group members must be in the same section! Submit one set of answers by **Thursday 10am** via Canvas under Assignments in **.pdf**; be sure to

¹I have read that it is more stable in Chrome.

²Possible benefits of signing up for a free account: you can host your own video chats to work on discussion questions with others, you can join a meeting from your phone, stay connected with friends and family, etc.

include anyone's name who deserves credit for the work. The set given Tuesday after lecture are for you to work on before recitation and will be answered with the next week's DQs. Late work is not accepted for any reason. *You can miss two DQs for any reason.*

NOTE: When you respond to questions based on the readings, do not copy and paste sentences from the readings themselves. This is plagiarism! Also, when you paraphrase, you **MUST** do more than substitute one or two words from the original text. If you do not this is still plagiarism. You must practice conveying the information in your own words in these assignments. Points will be deducted for plagiarism and poor paraphrasing. Please do not quote directly from the text.

- Paper (30%) (300 points):

A paper is required for this course. **I have a set of broad topics from which you will choose.** These topics can be found on Canvas under Modules. You need to have decided on your topic by **March 2nd** when Dr. Blackwell, from the Learning Centers, will present information on how to conduct a literature review. The aim is for you to conduct ask a research question within the topic and conduct a thorough literature review on that topic using a reasonable selection of research articles (8-20 sources). The paper should be 10-15 pages in length, double-spaced, 12 point font. If you email a draft to Joseph and me by **5pm on April 2**, we will read it, without prejudice, and make suggestions for you to use in your final version. The final (be it the first or revised) draft is due on the last day of class **9am on April 27**. Your grade on this paper will be based only on the final draft. Every day that a paper is late *for any reason* will result in an automatic one-grade reduction (A to B to C etc.). **NOTE: I have posted several guides for writing a literature review on Canvas under Resources that is required reading.**

- Extra Credit Options (9 possible points):

(1) Complete all of the DQs this semester and you will earn an extra 9 points.

(2) A number of researchers in Linguistics conduct experiments. You have the opportunity to participate in **at most 3 experiments for 3 points each** added to your final grade. Information for accessing the subject pool is available on Canvas under Resources. You must select one course to designate as the one for which you will receive the credit. Note: you can only select one course and that will be the one in which you receive the extra credit points. If you sign up for, but fail to show up for two or more experiments, you may be barred from further participation, so please note the time and location of your experiments, and take your schedule and transportation time into account. NOTE: We will be notified about your participation automatically at the end of term.

Trying Our Best During a Global Pandemic

You are trying to learn — and I am trying to teach — during a global pandemic. If we are lucky, all that will mean for us is that the semester will be more stressful than usual. I'm usually pretty strict for basically everything related to my courses, and I usually hold myself to the same high standard that I hold my students. For example, I expect things turned in on time and in return we grade material and

get it back to students quickly. But seriously, there is a global pandemic going on. So let's just agree that we will all try our best. I will cut you some slack, and I expect you to cut me some slack, provided that we communicate with each other about our needs and constraints. (used with permission from Ryan Briggs @ryancbriggs)

Rutgers Policy on Academic Integrity

Rutgers has a clear policy on Academic Integrity with very low tolerance for any form of cheating or plagiarism. This policy will be adhered to strictly. Please be sure to acquaint yourself with this policy: <http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home/academic-integrity-policy>. Violations include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying information to or misleading others, or facilitating these violations. A useful interactive tutorial on plagiarism can be found here: <http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModule/Plagiarism>

Cheating or plagiarizing materials in your papers deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on unacknowledged words or ideas that someone else originated. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. In this class we will take cheating very seriously. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be automatically referred to the Office of Student Conduct, and we will recommend penalties appropriate to the gravity of the infraction. I strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with this document, both for this class and for your other classes and future work. To help protect you, and future students, from plagiarism, we require all papers to be submitted through Turnitin.com.

Since what counts as plagiarism is not always clear, I quote the definition given in Rutgers' policy: Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other nontextual material from other sources.

A SPECIAL NOTE: Students often assume that because information is available on the Web it is public information, does not need to be formally referenced, and can be used without attribution. This is a mistake. All information and ideas that you derive from other sources, whether written,

spoken, or electronic, must be attributed to their original source. Such sources include not just written or electronic materials, but people with whom you may discuss your ideas, such as your roommate, friends, or family members. They deserve credit for their contributions too!

Judgments about plagiarism can be subtle. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask for guidance from me.

Students with Disabilities

The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all University programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Office of Disability Services (ODS): <https://ods.rutgers.edu>.

If you have received an Accommodation Letter for this course from ODS, please provide me with that information privately so that we can review those accommodations.

Rutgers' Learning Centers

Rutgers' Learning Centers “provide centralized academic support services to cultivate students’ skills, strategies, and behaviors that lead to academic persistence and lasting success.” Services available include peer tutoring, academic coaching, writing coaching, and study groups.

<https://rlc.rutgers.edu>

Get Involved with Cognitive Science Club!

Find information on the exciting events being organized by the Cognitive Science Club:

<http://ruccs.rutgers.edu/academics/cogsci-club>.

Like them on Facebook to get updates: <https://www.facebook.com/RUCogSciClub>

Email Etiquette

The following webpage “Email Etiquette: Guidelines for Writing to Your Professors” created by Dr. Mark Tomforde is required reading for the course:

<https://www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde/Email-Etiquette.html>

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 <http://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 professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA) (848) 932-1181

3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 <http://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.

Disability Services (848) 445-6800 <https://ods.rutgers.edu>

Rutgers welcomes students with disabilities into all of the educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the office, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>.

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

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

Name & Contact Info of 4 Students

Use the space below to exchange names and contact information of 4 students to contact and that can contact you with questions about the course.

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Date	Lecturer	Topic	Due by THURS 10am
January			
19	NO CLASS	Recitations meet Thursday!	
26	Sara Pixley	Cognitive Health	DQ #1
February			
2	Shana Cole	Goal Attainment	DQ #2
9	Sunyoung Kim	Human-computer Interaction	DQ #3
16	Alan Leslie	Theory of Mind	DQ #4
23	Ahmed Elgammal	Art and AI	DQ #5
March			
2	Stacey Blackwell	Learning Centers, Lit Rev; topic due	
9	Tomas Sjostrom	Strategizing in the Brain	DQ #6
16	SPRING BREAK		
23	[asynchronous] Mariapaola D'Imperio	Prosodic Phonology and Gesture	DQ #7
30	TBD	TBD	DQ #8
April			
6	Gandalf Nicolas	Spontaneous Social Cognition	DQ #9
13	Konstantinos Michmizos	Astrocytes	DQ #10
20	Joseph Sommer	Beliefs	DQ #11
27	Mary Rigdon	Competitive Preferences; Paper due!	DQ#12