

Syllabus
Introduction to the Cognitive Sciences, PNP 200
Spring, 2008

Instructor:

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Office hours: Wednesday 2:00-4:00pm

Teaching Assistants:

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Office hour: Friday 11:30-12:30

All of us are also available by appointment.

Meeting times and places:

Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00am-11:30am, 214 Wilson Hall

Textbooks:

Friedenberg, J. & Silverman, G. (2006). *Cognitive science : An introduction to the study of mind*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Thagard, P. (2005). *Mind: Introduction to cognitive science* (2nd ed.). Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.

Course web page: <http://dcl.wustl.edu/~jzacks/PNP200>

Important note: Some sections of the course web site are password protected. If you have lost the login and password, contact the instructors.

Overview:

We will seek to understand the mind-brain by integrating findings from several of the cognitive sciences, including philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, anthropology, and artificial intelligence. This course will consider multiple perspectives on such topics as mental imagery, concepts, rationality, consciousness, emotion, language, thought, memory, attention, and machine intelligence.

We will use a lecture format, but encourage active questioning and discussion. There will be a reading required for each session; we strongly recommend completing each reading before the corresponding lecture.

Grading:

Your grade will be based on a midterm exam, a final exam, and two essays. The midterm will be given during class; the final will be given during the assigned final period. (See following schedule.) The essays will be due approximately midway

between the exams (see following schedule). The individual exams and assignments will be graded on a hundred-point scale, and your final grade will be calculated based on the mean of the four grades using equal weighting, i.e.:

Essay 1: 25%

Essay 2: 25%

Midterm: 25%

Final: 25%

Grading will use the typical formula: A = 90%-100%, B=80%-89%, C=70%-79%, D=60%-69%, F = 0%-60%, with pluses and minuses occupying the upper and lower 2% of each 10% band.

Academic Integrity:

All written work must be your own; this includes both essays and exams. Any act of plagiarism or cheating will be sanctioned to the full extent of the University's procedures, which include failing the course and suspension. The Academic Integrity Policy offers helpful and concise guidelines regarding plagiarism:

"You commit plagiarism by taking someone else's ideas, words, or other types of work product and presenting them as your own. You can avoid plagiarism by using proper methods of documentation and acknowledgement.

Enclose every quotation in quotation marks, and acknowledge its source.

Cite the source of every summary, paraphrase, abstraction or adaptation of material originally prepared by another person, and any factual data that is not considered common knowledge. Include the name of author, title of work, publication information, and page reference.

Acknowledge material obtained from lectures, interviews, or other oral communication by citing the source (name of the speaker, the occasion, the place, and the date).

Cite material from the internet just as if it were from more traditionally published sources. Follow the citation style or requirements of your instructor."

See:

https://acadinfo.wustl.edu/WUCRSLFrontMatter/WebWUCRSLInfo_AcadIntegrity.htm

Course outline:

Here is the tentative schedule of readings, lectures, and exams. As adjustments are made, they will be announced in class and an updated syllabus will be posted on the web site.

Date	Topic	Reading
15-Jan	Representation and Computation	
17-Jan	Historical Overview	Friedenberg Ch. 1
22-Jan	Logic	Thagard Ch. 1-2
24-Jan	Rules I	NO READING
29-Jan	Rules II	Thagard Ch. 3
31-Jan	Concepts	Thagard Ch. 4
5-Feb	Analogies	Thagard Ch. 5
7-Feb	Images	Thagard Ch. 6
12-Feb	Connections	Thagard Ch. 7
14-Feb	Neural Systems	[NO READING, ESSAY 1 DUE]
19-Feb	The Mind-Body Problem	Friedenberg Ch. 2
21-Feb	Consciousness	[No READING]
26-Feb	Perceptual Organization and Gestalts	Friedenberg Ch. 3
28-Feb	Attention	Friedenberg Ch. 4
4-Mar	Vision	Friedenberg Ch. 6
6-Mar	MIDTERM	[NO READING]
11-Mar	SPRING BREAK	
13-Mar	SPRING BREAK	
18-Mar	Spatial Imagery	Friedenberg Ch. 5
20-Mar	Working Memory	Friedenberg Ch. 7
25-Mar	Long Term Memory	[NO READING]
27-Mar	Pattern Classification with Neural Networks	
1-Apr	Evolution of Language	Friedenberg Ch. 8
3-Apr	Linguistic Relativity	Friedenberg Ch. 9
8-Apr	Social Cognition	[NO READING, ESSAY 2 DUE]
10-Apr	The Turing Test	Friedenberg Ch. 10
15-Apr	Scripts	Friedenberg Ch. 11
17-Apr	Robotics	Friedenberg Ch. 12
22-Apr	Embodied Cognition	Friedenberg Ch. 13
24-Apr	Conclusions	[NO READING]
6-May	FINAL, 6-8pm	

Syllabus updated 1/10/08.