

Topics in cognitive science

Course convenor: Christophe Heintz

Core course for cognitive science first year PhD students, 2 credits, Fall 2018
Tuesdays, 11:00 am – 12:40 am, room 103, October 6th u., 7.

Office hours: Meeting by appointment. Students are also welcome just to pop in the office.

Course description

This course will review some key topics in cognitive science with a focus on the themes that are being developed in the department.

Goal of the course

Students will be presented with up to date research on key theoretical issues in cognitive science. The course should provide the background knowledge in cognitive psychology for better understanding the research of members of the department (PhD students, postdocs and faculty) and invited colloquium speakers. It should also help first year PhD student formulating and situating the theoretical questions they want to address in their PhD.

Learning outcome

Students will get acquainted with concepts and theories about the representational theory of mind, perception, learning, memory, embodied cognition, rationality, mind-reading, the evolution of human cognition, communication, the psychological bases of cultural diversity, and morality.

Requirements:

- Students must read the core reading before the seminars. Students are expected to contribute to class discussion and should have ready, each week, at least one question based on the texts and that could be fruitfully addressed during class discussion.
- Students will have to write short answers to questions related to the content of the course. They can expect two sets of questions, which will each require answers adding up to less than 1500 words.

Course schedule

Please note that the readings are posted on the Moodles.

September 18th

History of cognitive science (Csaba Pleh)

September, 25th

Communication

October, 2nd

Memory (Csaba Pleh)

October 9th
Perception (Jozsef Fiser)

October 16th
Model of rational choice

October 30th
Reasoning AND/OR Good practices in empirical research

November 6th
Theories of mind-reading

November 13th
Comparative psychology and the evolution of social cognition

November 20th
The psychological foundations of cultural diversity

November 27th
Moral cognition

December 4th
Learning (Mate Lengyel)