Course Description

This is a master and postgraduate course on cognitive functions. The aim of the course is to present current trends and topics in cognitive psychology with the primary focus on human memory functions, thinking, decision making and related cognitive functions. The course will primarily cover emerging topics that are not always covered in introductory courses, but that have become important themes in cognitive psychology. The course will include reproducibility, music, navigation, cognition in non-human animals, decision-making, and cognitive effects of testing and training.

The course will be based on a series of seminars during which students read and discuss empirical and theoretical articles germane to understanding of the emerging and central issues in cognitive psychology. Activities related to the seminars are mandatory. A lecture will introduce each topic and provide a historical and theoretical background before the seminar. The lecture is accompanied by supplementary readings. The lectures and the supplementary readings provide an additional resource but are not required.

Course Objectives

After completing the course:
- Students should have increased understanding of outstanding topics of cognition and their methodological challenges.
- Students should be able to analyze and critically reflect on central trends of cognitive psychology.
- Students should acquire a deepened understanding of basic issues of cognitive psychology and their relation to multiple perspectives of cognitive sciences and complementary levels of explanation.

Course Requirements

The course consists of lectures, seminars and exercises. To reach the course objectives, students need to attend and participate in all seminars as follows:

(a) Contribution to seminars. In addition to active participation, students are expected to generate outstanding question(s) prior to each seminar. The purpose of these questions and is to ensure that you have read the papers that have been assigned, and to help raise central issues for the discussion. You should submit (upload) you question(s) to the course web by noon the day before the seminar. You should also submit a separate PM in which you analyse and discuss your proposed question. Your proposal should reflect the general theme of each seminar, but you may also consider theoretical perspectives and empirical findings, which are not necessarily covered by the target articles. The document should be around 300-500 words and uploaded to the course web before each seminar.

(b) Leading the discussion. At each seminar, 1-2 students have the role of Discussants by organizing and leading the group discussion. Discussants will primarily summarize the key points to be extracted from the seminar topic and chair the session by presenting central issues raised the members of the group. Note that Discussants will lead the seminar, but everyone in the group is responsible for contributing to the seminar. Discussants do not
need to submit questions for their seminars.

**Examination**
The examination is based on each student’s contribution during the seminar, including the written PM, with max 2 points/seminar (2 = good, 1 = pass, and 0 = fail/missed seminar. The max score for the whole course is 14 p as summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminars</th>
<th>7 x 2p (=max)</th>
<th>14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final grade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>≥11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>≥9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>≥8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>≥7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Readings**
Readings and other course materials are based on empirical research articles and overviews, available at [the course website](#).

**T1: Cognitive Metascience**

**Target articles for seminar**


**Supplementary reading (not mandatory)**


**T2: Cognitive Training**

*Target articles for seminar*


*Supplementary reading (not mandatory)*


**T3: Spatial Cognition and Navigation**

*Target articles for seminar*


*Supplementary reading (not mandatory)*


**T4: Music and cognition**

*Target articles for seminar*


*Supplementary reading (not mandatory)*


**T5: Cognition in Non-Human Animals**

*Target articles for seminar*


Supplementary reading (not mandatory)


**T6: Testing effects in memory**

*Target articles for seminar*


**Supplementary reading (not mandatory)**


**T7: Decision-Making and Behavioral Economics**

*Target articles for seminar*


*Supplementary reading (not mandatory)*
