Introduction to Cognitive Science (PPLS08002)

Course organisers: Dr. Hannah Rohde (hannah.rohde@ed.ac.uk)
Dr. Alex Doumas (alex.doumas@ed.ac.uk)

Hannah Rohde’s office: Dugald Stewart Building, 2.06
Office Hours: Thursday 10-11am, or by appointment

Course Meetings: attendance at both lectures and both labs is mandatory

Lecture times: Tuesday/Thursday 11:10-12
Location details on next page

Lab times/place: Wednesday/Friday 1:10-2pm
7 George Square, Basement Concourse

Course secretary: Fiona Graham, f.graham@ed.ac.uk

What’s this course all about?
This course introduces students to the study of Cognitive Science as the intersection of an array of interrelated disciplines including philosophy, psychology, linguistics, anthropology, computer science, human-computer interaction, and neuroscience. Cognitive Science is an interdisciplinary effort to uncover the relationships between brains, minds, computation, and behaviour. The course combines a high-level perspective on key questions that the field of Cognitive Science aims to address along with a nuts-and-bolts training in computational skills that will serve as a necessary foundation for future courses in PPLS and Informatics. Classes and assignments will cover topics in areas such as language, learning, perception, action, and thought and will be taught by research-active staff from across Philosophy, Psychology, and Linguistics. Students will receive hands-on training in the transferable skills of computer programming.

Readings
There is no required textbook. All readings will be listed on Learn: some as recommended reading at the end of lecture slides and some as linked web readings. You will be told when readings need to be completed BEFORE class in order to support class discussion.

Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>% of Final Mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programming assignments:</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 assignments related to programming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15% each)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay writing assignments:</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 assignments related to readings and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>class lectures (15% each)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam:</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHEDULE

Structure: 3 themes presented from 3 perspectives (philosopher, psychologist, linguist)
Note: Always check class locations and pre-class readings for each lecture. Readings will be available on Learn.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 George Square F21</td>
<td>50 George Square G.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Computation</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALEX DOUMAS</td>
<td>MARK SINCLAIR</td>
<td>Do tasks on lab handout before 1st lab on Friday 25th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### THEME 1: NATIVISM & EMPIRICISM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2    | Framing of theme  
PHANNAH ROHDE  
*Readings before class* | Philosophy  
ALISTAIR ISAAC  
*Readings before class* | |
| 3    | Psychology  
HUGH RABAGLIATI  
*Podcast before class* | Psychology  
HUGH RABAGLIATI  
*Podcast before class* | |
| 4    | Linguistics  
ROB TRUSWELL | Linguistics  
ROB TRUSWELL | Start HW#1 (Program)  
Start HW#2 (Essay) |

### THEME 2: REPRESENTATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5    | Framing of theme  
PHANNAH ROHDE  
*Readings before class* | Philosophy  
DAVE WARD  
HW#1 Due 22 Oct  
submit by 2pm | |
| 6    | Computation  
PATRICK STURT | Psychology  
ROBERT LOGIE  
HW#2 Due 29 Oct  
submit by 2pm | |
| 7    | Psychology  
ROB LOGIE | Linguistics  
ROB TRUSWELL | |
| 8    | Linguistics  
ROB TRUSWELL | Computation  
PATRICK STURT | Start HW#3 (Program) |

### THEME 3: EMBODIMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9    | Framing of theme  
PHANNAH ROHDE  
*Readings before class* | Philosophy  
ANDY CLARK  
*Readings before class* | Start HW#4 (Essay) |
| 10   | Psychology  
MARTIN PICKERING | Psychology  
MARTIN PICKERING | |
| 11   | Linguistics  
PHANNAH ROHDE  
*Readings before class* | Linguistics  
PHANNAH ROHDE  
*Readings before class* | HW#4 Due 3 Dec  
submit by 2pm |

Exam: date to be announced