



**Carleton**  
**University**

Department of  
Cognitive Science

CGSC 1001 B: Introduction to Cognitive Science  
September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Fall 2024  
Syllabus

**Instructor Information**

**Course instructor:** Dr. Nalini Elisa Ramlal

**E-mail:** [naliniramlal@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:naliniramlal@cunet.carleton.ca)

Please email me using your Carleton email address. Include the course code and section in the subject line.

**Office hours:** Virtual hours Tuesdays from 12:00-100PM

**Office location:** Zoom (link provided on course website)

**Course title:** Mysteries of the Mind

**Course number:** 1001 B

**Delivery:** Online Asynchronous

**Department:** Cognitive Science

**Teaching Assistant Information:**

TBA

**Course Website:**

Brightspace will be used for access to the weekly course content, grades, announcements, Zoom link, etc. It is recommended that students regularly check Bright Space for course updates and other information. Students are responsible for keeping current with the information on Bright Space. As an online course, our course website on Bright Space is going to be a dynamic space,

our virtual classroom, with many opportunities for you to make a meaningful contribution to the course.

### **Official Course Description**

Challenges faced in understanding the mind, and some of the approaches cognitive science has brought to bear on them. Topics may include the nature of knowledge, how we learn, the extent to which human thinking is rational, biases in thinking, and evolutionary influences on cognition.

### **Detailed Course Description**

We will be exploring topics related to the mind from an interdisciplinary approach, drawing from the fields of psychology and philosophy as represented in cognitive science. We will be exploring how humans come to know what they know, how knowledge is obtained, the influence of language on thought, personality and personhood, mental illness and recovery and the influence on mind and consciousness, as well as challenges related to the mind and consciousness. Some of the topics may include exploration/examination from a non-Western perspective.

### **Delivery Method**

This course is held online, asynchronously. The time holder for this course is Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35 - 3:55PM. In order to accommodate as many students as possible, **classes will not be held live**. Weekly lecture content and additional materials will be uploaded for your viewing which you can do **asynchronously**. **However, tests WILL be held during scheduled class time so please ensure you are taking note of the test days and times in the schedule below and block off the time in your schedule**. Be sure to keep up to date with weekly content and deadlines. Bright Space should be checked regularly for content and announcements.

### **Course Text**

Primary text:

Cacioppo, J., Freberg, L. & Waggoner Denton, A. (2021). *Discovering psychology: The science of the mind, First Canadian edition*. Cengage. This book can be purchased at the University bookstore. Ebooks can be purchased through Cengage following this link:

<https://www.cengage.ca/c/etextbook-discovering-psychology-1e-cacioppo-freberg-denton/9781774747124/>

Secondary text:

Blackmore, S. & Troscianko E. T. (2024). *Consciousness: An introduction* (4th edition). Routledge. Selected chapters for the secondary text will be available via Ares.

I may suggest optional readings outside of the course textbook. They are recommendations for students who wish to further their interest in a specific topic.

Articles and other course materials: accessed via Ares, Google Scholar, Carleton's Library Portal, or links provided on Bright Space.

**Disclaimer:** I reserve the right to change the readings or topics assigned. Changes will not add substantial workload.

## Evaluation

### Test 1

**Value:** 25%

**Date:** October 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Description:** Students will be tested on the material presented in lecture, weekly content, and course readings to date. Students may use class notes to take the test (open book). Students must write the test independently. Students found collaborating risk receiving a 0. You are not to use Chat GPT or any other AI generative technology when taking this test.

Test questions will include multiple choice and T/F. Students will have 80 minutes (1 hour and 20 minutes) to write the test unless the student has accommodations granted by the university, in which case accommodations will be applied. You may write any time on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10AM-5PM EST. A virtual room will be opened during scheduled class time, from 2:35-3:55PM, should you have questions when writing the test. If you tend to have questions when writing a test, I recommend you write during scheduled class time as the virtual room will not be opened outside of scheduled class time on test day. However, there is a 7-hour window for you to write the test to allow for flexibility. Ensure that you block off the scheduled time on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to write the test. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are adhering to EST, and give themselves sufficient time to log in and write the test. The test will be written on Bright Space. Should students encounter any technical errors when writing the test, they should contact Bright Space support: <https://carleton.ca/brightspace/students/>. Requests for make up tests are not guaranteed. Students should be present on test day. Only in very rare and dire circumstances should a student request a make up test (e.g., having a shift at work is not a dire circumstance. In the case of severe illness or related circumstances, verifiable documentation, such as a medical note, must be presented for consideration of a make up test. Do not send over documentation with personal medical history (e.g., prescriptions)). Further information will be provided on the course website.

**Test 2****Value:** 30%**Date:** November 21<sup>st</sup>

**Description:** Students will be tested on the material presented in lecture, weekly content, and course readings to date. Students may use class notes to take the test (open book). Students must write the test independently. Students found collaborating risk receiving a 0. You are not to use Chat GPT or any other AI generative technology when taking this test.

Test questions will include multiple choice and T/F. Students will have 80 minutes (1 hour and 20 minutes) to write the test unless the student has accommodations granted by the university, in which case accommodations will be applied. You may write any time on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 10AM-5PM EST. A virtual room will be opened during scheduled class time, from 2:35-3:55PM, should you have questions when writing the test. If you tend to have questions when writing a test, I recommend you write during scheduled class time as the virtual room will not be opened outside of scheduled class time on test day. However, there is a 7-hour window for you to write the test to allow for flexibility. Ensure that you block off the scheduled time on November 21<sup>st</sup> to write the test. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are adhering to EST, and give themselves sufficient time to log in and write the test. The test will be written on Bright Space. Should students encounter any technical errors when writing the test, they should contact Bright Space support: <https://carleton.ca/brightspace/students/>. Requests for make up tests are not guaranteed. Students should be present on test day. Only in very rare and dire circumstances should a student request a make up test (e.g., having a shift at work is not a dire circumstance. In the case of severe illness or related circumstances, verifiable documentation, such as a medical note, must be presented for consideration of a make up test. Do not send over documentation with personal medical history (e.g., prescriptions)). Further information will be provided on the course website.

**Critical Analysis Written Assignment****Value:** 30%**Due:** November 7<sup>th</sup>

**Description:** Students will critically analyze an academic TedTalk or lecture and respond to questions provided on the written assignment. Further details will be provided on the course website, including a grading rubric and student expectations. Late submissions will have a penalty of 7% per day, including weekends. Papers that are 5 days past due will not be accepted and will receive a 0.\* Students are not permitted to use Chat GPT or any other AI generative technology in writing their assignment.

**Written Reflection (Experiential Activities)****Value:** 15%**Due:** December 5<sup>th</sup>

**Description:** You are required to submit a collective reflection on your experience completing some of the experiential learning activities throughout the course. Further details will be provided on Bright Space. Late submissions will have a penalty of 7% per day, including weekends. Papers that are 5 days past due will not be accepted and will receive a 0.\* Students are not permitted to use Chat GPT or any other AI generative technology in writing their assignment.

\*Late policy applies: 'Per day' is defined as anything past one second after a full day (it does not need to be a full 24 hours to be considered one day). For example, if an assignment is due on October 4th before midnight and you submit the assignment on October 5th at 12:01AM, your assignment is considered 1 day late. If you submit on October 6th at 1:05AM, your assignment is considered 2 days late.

**Learning Outcomes**

In this course, students will be introduced to different theories in the field of cognitive science, and will apply some of these theories to some real-world experiences. Students will assess these theories, formulating their own views about the theories and their applicability to challenges in consciousness studies. Students will also explore the history of some these challenges as discussed in cognitive science.

**On completion of this course the student should demonstrate competencies in:**

1. Understanding and applying theories and ideas to daily real-world experiences.
2. Understanding the interdisciplinary nature of cognitive science.
3. Critical thinking skills by questioning, analyzing, interpreting and applying the course content and completing assignments and tests.
4. Identifying and evaluating personal and academic thoughts regarding issues in the study of consciousness.
5. Applying forms of inquiry to theoretical and practical issues.
6. Deepening and broadening their understanding of the mind.
7. Developing independence of thought.
8. Time management and organizational skills by completing assigned readings, watching lectures and weekly content, and completing assignments on time.
9. Critical reflection by developing a deep understanding of how challenges and knowledge of the study of the mind can be applied in their own life.

## NOTES

1. The standard time for returning graded assignments is two weeks from the date of the assignment. If additional time is needed for grading, an announcement will be made on the course website.
2. Your teaching assistant is responsible for grading your work and they are your first point of contact. You should contact your teaching assistant with questions, especially questions related to grading.
3. Feedback is provided to students throughout the semester in many ways, where students have the opportunity to learn from, and apply, feedback. Meaningful feedback is provided in diverse manners in order to provide a well-rounded learning experience. Feedback is provided on graded content. It is recommended that students actively engage with feedback to improve the content of their work.
4. Re-evaluation of assignments: If a student is unhappy with their grade on an assignment or believes they deserve a higher grade, they are invited to reflect on the feedback, taking some time to determine how and where they could have improved. Students are welcome to request additional feedback during an office hour or appointment with their teaching assistant. If the student would still like to challenge the grade after receiving additional feedback, the student may request a re-evaluation from the TA first, then the professor. A re-evaluation may result in no grade change, a higher grade change, or lower grade change. Students are reminded that feedback is provided as part of the learning experience in highlighting strengths and stretches.
5. A make-up test will be considered only upon presentation of verifiable documentation (e.g., a doctor's note). A failure to provide one will result in a zero. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if a test is missed. Students must contact the instructor within 48 hours of a missed test to schedule a make-up. This is the student's responsibility. Arrangements must be made directly with the instructor. There are no exceptions.
6. Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
7. Students should keep up with course readings as per the schedule below. Students will be responsible in managing their time in approaching textbook material and concepts selected by the professor. The professor is available throughout the semester to meet with students. It is strongly recommended that students consult with her as needed. You are expected to plan your time wisely and complete evaluations on time.
8. Reweighting of course material is not possible.
9. All evaluations will be submitted through Bright Space. All feedback will be provided through Bright Space. Save copies of your work and back up your files.

10. Emails are for brief responses. Please see me during an office hour for questions that require a lengthier response. Allow 24-48 hours for a response to your email. Email is not monitored on weekends.

**Class Schedule:** Each class contains required readings (listed below) and one or more of the following: pre-recorded lectures, YouTube videos, links to webpages for additional reading and viewing, and activities. Class materials will be released on a weekly basis, on the Tuesday of every week or shortly before.

### **Introduction to the Course: September 5<sup>th</sup>**

Welcome information

Introduction to the course and expectations

### **September 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>**

History of studying the ‘mind’

Philosophical issues in studying consciousness

*Readings:*

Cacioppo et al., Chapter 1

Blackmore & Troscianko, Chapter 1

### **September 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>**

Philosophical issues in studying consciousness

*Readings:*

Blackmore & Troscianko, Chapters 2 & 3

### **September 24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

Where does knowledge come from?

The mind and language

*Readings:*

Cacioppo et al., Chapter 3 and Chapter 10

Pinker (2004): <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20027940?seq=1>

Boroditsky (2011):

[http://www.cogsci.bme.hu/~ktkuser/KURZUSOK/BMETE47MC15/2018\\_2019\\_1/boroditsky2001.pdf](http://www.cogsci.bme.hu/~ktkuser/KURZUSOK/BMETE47MC15/2018_2019_1/boroditsky2001.pdf)

**October 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Study day: October 1<sup>st</sup>

Test 1 written on October 3<sup>rd</sup>

**October 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**

Personality

*Readings:*

Cacioppo et al., Chapter 7 and Chapter 12

**October 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**

Self and personhood

*Readings :*

Blackmore & Troscianko, Chapter 16

Critical analysis written assignment released

**Reading week: Week of October 21<sup>st</sup>****October 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>**

The connected mind

*Readings:*

Cacioppo et al., Chapter 13

**November 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>**

Documentary or film TBA

Time provided to work on, and submit, written assignment (due November 7<sup>th</sup>)

**November 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>**

Disorders and the mind

*Readings:*

Cacioppo et al., Chapters 14 and 15



**November 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**

Study day: November 19<sup>th</sup>

Test 2 held on Thursday November 21<sup>st</sup>

**November 26<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

The healthy mind

*Readings:*

Cacioppo et al., Chapter 16

Blackmore & Troscianko, Chapter 18

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

Wrapping up

Time provided to work on written reflection

## **Important Information**

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 34), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

Grades entered by Registrar:

WDN = Withdrawn from the

course DEF = Deferred

## **Statement on Academic Integrity**

- Students are prohibited from re-using their own work from a different course/assignment
- Any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

## **Plagiarism**

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as *“presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.”* This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

### Statement on Student Mental Health

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

#### Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

<https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

#### Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

#### Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

### Requests for Academic Accommodations

#### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

**Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website ([students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)).**

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in- class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

### **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

**Important Information**

- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
  - Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean
  - The last day for academic withdrawal for fall courses is Sept 30, 2024 (with full fee adjustment).
  - For us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CARLETON address. Therefore, in order to respond to your inquiries, please send all email from your Carleton CMail account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <http://carleton.ca/ccs/students/>
- 

**For a list of dates and deadlines, including holidays and exam dates, please visit:**

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>