

CGSC5001

Empirical Issues in Cognitive Science

Fall 2022
Tuesday 11:35am – 2:25pm
Dunton Tower 2203

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Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30-2:30 (zoom)
and by appointment

Overview

In this course, we will examine a series of issues in empirical Cognitive Science.

Expectations

You are expected to attend classes and be prepared to discuss the material. This includes being able to ask and answer questions, integrate material across readings/classes, and consider both theory and research.

Brightspace

The course outline and assignment details will be posted on Brightspace.

Evaluation

The coursework consists of six short commentaries/discussion questions, one presentation, a take-home exam (term paper), and attendance/participation. Details are outlined below.

Materials

Readings will be assigned.

Prerequisites

Graduate standing in CogSci

Important Dates

Sept. 20th – Dec. 6th, 2022

Commentaries due before
class.

Nov. 1st – Dec. 6th, 2022

Presentations in class.

Dec. 22nd, 2022

Take-Home Exam due

Brightspace

Here you will find:

General (course-related) resources, such as:

- Course Outline with a breakdown of topics
- Details of the written assignments and presentation
- A drop box (to be used to submit the written assignment)
- General discussion forum (**not** monitored)
- Other resources for the course (e.g., links to a APA style guide)

Topic-related resources, such as:

- Other resources (links to interesting and relevant videos, articles, papers, etc.)

Evaluation

Item	Value	Date
Six Commentaries (you can do one for any class day after Sept. 13th)	30%	Digital copies are due to me by noon on the Monday before class (via Brightspace dropbox). Three of these must be for classes before the Fall Reading Week and three of these must be for classes after the Fall Reading Week.
Presentation	15%	The presentation dates are for any class with an asterisk, for which you are not doing a commentary. You will sign up for a specific date/topic early in September.
Term Paper	35%	This will be due by 10:00pm on Dec. 22nd (take-home exam) via Brightspace Dropbox.
Attendance and Participation	20%	Attendance will be taken every class in the form of a sign-in sheet. Information about participation is below.

Commentaries

You are required to prepare critical commentaries, based on the readings, for 6 classes during the term (you will sign up for these in advance). The commentaries should provide evidence of having carefully considered the assigned readings. Each should end with a *thought question*, which should be *thoughtful*. For example, your thought question could draw different issues together, push one to consider inconsistencies in a theory, or require one to consider an issue in a new way. Your critical commentary should set up the background material for your question [e.g., “Keeping in mind that pretense can be both a way acting (‘pretend to’) or a propositional attitude (‘pretend that’), what evidence would be necessary to determine whether a particular child is engaged in the latter?”]. Your questions should not be clarification questions [e.g., ‘What did the author mean by ‘accommodation?’]. The commentaries will be evaluated in terms of the degree to which they reflect a careful and thoughtful consideration of the readings/topics.

Format

The commentaries **must be between 450 - 650 words** (approx. 2 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1-inch margins all around), plus references. You must submit these via the Brightspace Dropbox by **Monday at noon, prior to the relevant class**. Please note that you should format your papers in APA, especially when it comes to citing sources. There will be a link in Brightspace directing you to a site (authorized) with a summary of the current APA requirements.

Deadlines and Grading

You must submit your commentaries **by noon on the Monday before the relevant class**. After that, it will be considered late and a late penalty will apply (**30% per day**), unless there is appropriate documentation to support the late submission. **Be careful to not plagiarize.**

Presentation

Each student is expected to make one presentation during the course on a topic you select. You must have approval from me about your topic before the Fall Reading Week (I am happy to help you narrow in on a specific topic). You must also select readings for your topic at least two weeks prior to your presentation date (I can assist you with this). You will select your presentation date, though not necessarily your topic, by September 27th.

The presentation will consist of leading the class meeting at which that topic is covered. During the presentation, you are expected to begin by presenting an overview of the day's readings (i.e., highlight the main points of each paper, present a few key quotes), introduce some discussion topics (e.g., problems with paper, unclear points, connections to previous readings, ideas for improvement, etc.), and helping to run the discussion for that class. You must meet with me at least one week in advance of your presentation date to discuss your topic and any ideas/questions/concerns you might have.

Take-Home Exam

A term paper will be due at the end of the course (take-home exam). The paper should address in a critical, careful, and detailed way a topic that is an **empirical issue in cognitive science**. We will discuss this assignment in class in more detail. The topic can either expand upon something covered in class or discuss something that was not addressed. The term paper should consist of a research proposal with a strong, critical literature review and ideas for a possible study that would shed new light on some issue related to your selected topic.

You are *required* to have your topic approved by me prior to beginning your paper. You are encouraged to do your term paper on the topic you presented in class, but you are not required to do so. I am happy to look at outlines and drafts and provide you with some general feedback. Expect 3-4 days turnaround time for an outline and about a week for a draft.

Format

The length of the paper is **15-18 pages** (plus references). The paper should double-spaced, 12 pt., in a standard font (e.g., Times or Times New Roman), with 1" margins all around. You must submit these via Dropbox class (no hard copies please). Again, make sure that you have formatted your papers according to current APA style guidelines.

Deadlines and Grading

You must submit your term paper no later than 10:00pm on Dec. 22nd, 2022. Anything submitted after 10:00pm that day will be considered late and a late penalty will apply (10% per day), unless there is appropriate documentation to support the late submission. Be careful to not plagiarize.

Attendance and Participation

To earn full marks for participation, you need to:

- a) Attend all classes;
- b) Be prepared for class (as evidenced by having done the readings); and
- c) Participate during class discussions, ask thoughtful questions, answer questions, etc.

Notice that to earn full marks, you are not required to have 'all the right answers'. Instead, you are required to come to class prepared (i.e., having read and thought about the material) and ready to engage in intelligent conversation. Intelligent conversation includes asking critical questions, finding ways to link issues from one topic to another, and/or coming up with new ways to examine issues.

There will be a sign-in sheet each class – it is your responsibility to make sure you sign it each week.

Please note that your 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.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class Date	Topic
Sept. 13	Overview & Introduction to Mental Representation
Sept. 20	Mental Representation Cont'd – Understanding False Beliefs
Sept. 27	Mental Representation Cont'd – Intentions/Moral Reasoning
Oct. 4	Mental Representation Cont'd – Referentially Opaque Contexts
Oct. 11	Language and Cognition – Language and Thought
Oct. 18	Language and Cognition – Bilingualism and Cognition
Oct. 25	Reading Week – NO CLASS
Nov. 1	Presentation topic - T.B.A.
Nov. 8	Presentation topic - T.B.A.
Nov. 15	Presentation topic - T.B.A.
Nov. 22*	Presentation topic - T.B.A.
Nov. 29	Presentation topic - T.B.A.
Dec. 6	Presentation topic - T.B.A.
Dec. 22	Take-Home Exam due by 10:00pm (Term Paper).

ASSIGNED READINGS

Note that within the topics, **the papers are listed in the order that you should read them**, not alphabetical order. The readings for the remaining topics will be posted in a few weeks.

[THESE WILL BE LISTED BY THE WEEK ONCE THEY'VE BEEN SELECTED]

UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

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>

STATEMENT ON PANDEMIC MEASURES

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

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](#).

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 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>