

CGSC 2001 C: Theories in Cognitive Science
Winter 2024
Course Syllabus

Instructor Information

Course instructor: Dr. Nalini Elisa Ramlakhan

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Please email me using your Carleton email address.

Office hours: Virtual hours: Fridays 4:30-5:30 PM or by appointment

Course Information

Winter 2024, Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:05 – 5:25PM (please see information below regarding course time and delivery method).

Course title: Theories in Cognitive Science

Course number: 2001 A

Delivery: Online (asynchronous)

Department: Cognitive Science

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing and FYSM 1607 or CGCS 1001, or permission of the Department.

Teaching Assistant Information:

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Course Website

Brightspace will be used for access to the weekly course content, grades, announcements, Zoom link for office hours, etc. It is recommended that students regularly check Brightspace for course updates and other information. Students are responsible for keeping current with the information on Brightspace. As an online course, our course website on Brightspace is a dynamic space with many opportunities for you to make a meaningful contribution to the course and connect with your peers. The discussion forums represent an excellent place in which to ask questions of your colleagues, share your thoughts on the material, post interesting and relevant links, etc.

Official Course Description

An integrated background of the discipline of Cognitive Science, with an historical overview (1940's onward) and examination of the extent to which the discipline has assimilated the collective knowledge of contributing disciplines (e.g., psychology, philosophy, linguistics, artificial intelligence and neuroscience).

Delivery Method

This course is held online (asynchronous). 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 view and complete **asynchronously**. There will be opportunities for students to meet virtually with the instructor and TAs. **The only exceptions to this are the tests, which are held on February 7th and March 27th, 2024. Students will be able to write any time on that day (see**

schedule below). You must be available to write on this date. No exceptions will be made unless discussed with the instructor before January 19th. Teaching assistants will be holding **optional** workshops (approx. one per month) to engage with students who wish to further their knowledge of the course content.

Course Text

Blackmore, S. (2018). *Consciousness* (3rd edition). Routledge. All readings listed on the course syllabus are mandatory. While there are other editions of this book, some made freely available, our class will be working from the most recent edition, and it is recommended that students also work from the textbook listed above, as these reading are required.

Optional material may be posted online, and will be indicated as optional material. These are recommendations for students who wish to further their interest in a specific topic.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to change the readings or topics assigned. Changes will not add substantial workload.

Evaluation

Test 1

Value: 20%

Date: February 7th

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). Test questions will include multiple choice and T/F questions. Students will have 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. Students may write the test at any time on February 7th, provided the test is submitted no later than 11:59 PM EST. 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 (for example, don't begin the test at 11:00 PM—you won't be given your full time to write the test). The test will be written on Brightspace. Should students encounter any technical errors when writing the test, they should contact Brightspace support. A make-up test will be provided 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 24 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.

Test 2

Value: 25%

Date: March 27th

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). Test questions will include multiple choice and T/F questions. Students will have 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. Students may write the test at any time on March 27th, provided the test is submitted no later than 11:59 PM EST. 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 (for example, don't begin the test at 11:00 PM—you won't be given your full time to write the test). The test will be written on Brightspace. Should students encounter any technical errors when writing the test, they should contact Brightspace support. A make-up test will be provided 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 24 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.

Participation/Discussion Boards

Value: 20%

Due: Ongoing—See dates below

Description: Students will use the discussion board forum to participate in the discussion with other peers. Please see Brightspace for further information regarding discussion boards. Although our course is held online, there are many opportunities to engage with your peers, the instructor, and TAs.

Discussion forums are one way to do this. Students are expected to actively engage with their peers on a consistent basis by posting a discussion and responding to at least one peer prior to the deadline. You are expected to complete all posts by the due date. This also keeps with the spirit of participating with others in a timely manner. Discussion boards open at the beginning of each unit, and you are encouraged to plan your time and post early. This allows for peers to respond to your post in a timely manner as well. See schedule below for due dates. Participation for each discussion board (your initial post and at least one response to a peer) is worth 5%, for a total for 20% (4 posts in total). A grading rubric and further details will be provided on Brightspace. You must submit your discussion post by the deadlines listed below or you will be given a 0. There is no late policy for this evaluation in keeping with the spirit of engaging with peers in a timely manner, and due to having the entire unit to write your posts.

Final Assignment

Value: 35%

Due: April 10th

Description: There will be a final cumulative assignment for this course. This assignment includes short and long answer questions. Students are to work on this assignment independently. All assignments must be uploaded on Brightspace. A late penalty of 7% per day, including weekends, will be applied to work submitted after the deadline, unless an extension has been granted. Assignments will not be accepted 5 days beyond the due date and will result in a 0. You must have a valid reason for requesting an extension and may need to submit verifiable documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Some reasons for requesting an extension on assignments are: illness, elderly care, and family emergencies. *The University has designated April 10th as the final day that instructors can set as a due date for end of term work. This will be the final due date for your assignment.* You will be provided some asynchronous class time to complete your assignment, so be mindful of this if requesting an extension. A request for an extension does not guarantee an extension. A grading rubric will be posted on Brightspace.

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. A make-up test will be provided 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 24 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.
3. Student, TA, 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).

4. 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 assessments on time.
5. Reweighting of course material is not possible.
6. All evaluations will be submitted through Brightspace. All feedback will be provided through Brightspace. Save copies of your work and back up your files.
7. Submission of work via email will NOT be accepted. Please do not email any course work to the professor or teaching assistants. Emailed work will be given a grade of 0.
8. Use of AI generative tools (e.g., Chat GPT) are not permitted in the use of completing and submitting evaluations/course assessments. While students may use these tools to gather knowledge or for other educational purposes, using these tools to create and submit an answer/response would be considered plagiarism and a violation of academic integrity, and Carleton's plagiarism/academic integrity policy and related policies will apply if you are caught using these tools for this purpose. By using these tools to create and submit answers, it means you are submitting work that is not your own. See Carleton's policy below.

Class Schedule

Classes contains **required readings/resources** (listed below) and one or more of the following: pre-recorded Zoom lectures, links to webpages for additional information, mandatory discussion boards, videos, and activities. For some classes, you may have a little less or a little more reading assigned. Readings are kept light to ensure that students read and engage with the material, as well as critically reflect on the course content to engage in discussion with peers. It is recommended that the readings listed below be completed before viewing the unit's content.

All readings and resources listed below and posted on Bright Space are mandatory unless otherwise specified. This course is broken down into units, where you work through the unit in the dates provided, submitting work on time (due dates specified below). I will also upload a recommended timeline for working through each unit on Bright Space.

Unit 1: The History of Cognitive Science and The Problem(s) in Consciousness Studies;

Consciousness, Language, and Our Experience of the World

January 8th-January 23rd

Due: Post 1 January 23rd

Readings

Blackmore, Section 1 (Chapters 1-3)

Boroditsky, 2001: Does language shape thought?: Mandarin and English speakers' conceptions of time. Download and read the full article, not just the abstract.

Unit 2: The Brain, Body, World and Consciousness

January 24th-February 16th

Readings

Blackmore, Sections 2 and 3 (Chapters 4-9)

Test 1: February 7th

Due: Post 2 February 16th

Winter Break: February 19-23

Unit 3: Evolution and Consciousness

February 26th-March 12th

Readings

Blackmore, Section 4 (Chapters 10-12)

Due: Post 3 March 12th

Unit 4: Borderlands, Personhood, and Consciousness

March 13th-April 1st

Readings

Blackmore, Sections 5 and 6 (Sections 13-18)

Test 2: March 27th

Due: Post 4 April 1st

Unit 5: Wrapping Up; Writing Workshop

April 2nd-April 10th (Note: April 10th follows a Friday Schedule)

Readings

APA manual and guidelines

Due: Final Assignment April 10th

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 34), the letter grades assigned in t 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 = 5
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	
F = Below 50			

Grades entered by
Registra WDN = Withdraw
DEF =

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, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- 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](#).

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, please request your accommodations for this course through

the [Ventus Student Portal](#) 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*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). 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
- 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/>
- November 15, 2023: Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall classes
- March 15, 2024: Last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter and fall/winter courses.

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

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