

**CGSC 2001-C: Theories in Cognitive Science**  
**Course Outline**  
**Winter 2021**

**Class Information**

Dates: Jan 11, 2021 – April 14, 2021

Time: Online, asynchronous

Location: Online, asynchronous

Course prerequisites: Second year standing and one of CGSC 1001 or FYSM 1607, or permission of the Department

Course website: <https://carleton.ca/culearn/>

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Sean Riley

Office: Online via BigBlueButton

Phone: N/A

E-mail: [seanriley@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:seanriley@cmail.carleton.ca)

Office Hours: M & W: 8:35 – 9:55am, or upon request (please email me to set up a time)

**Teaching Assistant(s)**

Name: TBA

E-mail: TBA

Office hours (if applicable): TBA

**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).

Although this course serves as a core introductory credit for all Cognitive Science majors, it is also intended to be accessible to students in other disciplines, whether or not those disciplines are connected to Cognitive Science.

By the end of this class, students will be able to:

- define terms related to cognitive science
- describe historical developments that have shaped the field of cognitive science
- describe cognitive science theories and research
- compare and contrast findings from broad areas of cognitive science to explain theories of cognition

## Readings

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be provided via cuLearn.

## Course Web Page (cuLearn)

The course website is located at <https://carleton.ca/culearn/>

There you will find the course outline, schedule, lecture videos, powerpoint slides, readings, and all other materials pertaining to the course. This is an asynchronous course, allowing you to work through the materials at your own pace. However, it is strongly advised that you do not leave everything to the last minute, and keep pace with the class.

## Evaluation

| Item   | Weight of Grade | Due date          |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Test 1*:</b> The first test will cover content from the first portion of the course prior to test 1. The test will be accessible via cuLearn.                           | 20%             | Feb. 10, 11pm EST |
| <b>Test 2*:</b> The second test will cover content starting with material after test 1 up to the content covered prior to test 2. The test will be accessible via cuLearn. | 20%             | Mar. 10, 11pm EST |
| <b>Paper:</b> The paper will be approx. 2,000 words. More details will be provided closer to the paper's due date. It will be submitted via cuLearn.                       | 20%             | Mar. 22, 11pm EST |
| <b>Experiment Design:</b> A short outline of an experiment you designed. More details will be provided closer to the assignment's due date.                                | 10%             | Mar. 29, 11pm EST |
| <b>Final Exam:</b> The final exam will be <b>cumulative</b> , and will cover content from the entire course. The exam will be accessible via cuLearn.                      | 30%             | Apr. 27, 11pm EST |

\*You can take each test twice, and I will count the higher of the two scores. However, each time you take the test, you will receive a different set of questions (i.e., you will not take the same exam on your second attempt as you did on your first). **The final exam can only be taken once. Please contact me asap if you encounter any technical problems during tests or the final exam.**

## Lecture Schedule

There are no formal lectures you need to attend. All course materials will be presented in the form of videos, powerpoints, and assigned reading. These will be posted on a weekly basis, as per the (tentative) schedule below. You are free to work through the materials at you own pace, but it is strongly recommended that you keep pace with the class, and not leave things until the last minute.

All test & exams will be completed online via cuLearn. All office hours will be held via BigBlueButton. If you cannot attend scheduled office hours, please email me or a TA to arrange a time to meet.

| Week        | Module                                       | Important Dates  |
|-------------|--|--|
| 1           | Historical Overview                          | Jan. 11: class begins  |
| 2           | Early Theories & Results                     |  |
| 3           | Brains & Biology                             |  |
| 4           | Integration Challenge                        |  |
| 5           | Physical Symbol Systems & Their Applications | Feb 8: Test 1 opens and must be completed by 11pm EST, Feb. 10. It covers materials from week 1, up to and including week 4. |
|             | READING WEEK                                 |  |
| 6           | Other Models & Neural Networks               | Feb. 22: paper details are released  |
| 7           | Organization of Mind & Cognitive Modelling   | Mar. 1: experiment design details are released   |
| 8           | Embodiment & Affect                          | Mar 8: Test 2 opens and must be completed by 11pm EST, Mar. 10. It covers materials from week 5, up to and including week 7. |
| 9           | Creativity & Social Cognition                |  |
| 10          | Decision Making                              | Mar. 22: paper is due by 11pm EST  |
| 11          | Organization of Cognitive Systems            | Mar 29: experiment design due by 11pm EST  |
| 12          | Consciousness                                | Apr. 12: take-home final is released   |
| Exam Period |  | Apr. 27: take-home final is due by 11pm EST  |

*This schedule is to be regarded as tentative, although the test and exam dates are fixed.*

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar, 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

### **Policy on Late Papers:**

Barring illness, bereavement, or other approved reasons, late papers will be penalized at a rate of 10% of the assignment value per day or part day. However, given the struggles imposed by COVID-19, I am happy to provide as much flexibility as reasonably possible, should an issue arise. Therefore, if you are running into trouble with your paper, you are **strongly** encouraged to contact me as soon as possible.

### **Tests & Examinations**

All tests and examinations will be completed via cuLearn. Students are allowed to use their course notes, assigned readings, and lecture materials during the tests and exam, but collaboration and outside sources of materials are strictly prohibited, and subject to disciplinary action that could result in a grade of "F" for the course. All tests and examinations will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Questions will be based off lecture materials and course readings. Illness and bereavement (supported by appropriate documentation) are the only reasons accepted for missed tests and examinations. If you miss the tests or examinations for one of these reasons, obtain the appropriate documentation and contact me immediately (within 24 hours) to arrange a make-up exam. Make up tests and examinations must be written within 7 days of the original date. In order to participate in a makeup examination, a student must receive written permission from the instructor. If you are unable to write the final exam, please follow the procedures listed in the section, Petitions to Defer: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/petition/>

### **Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Etc.**

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website.

#### *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 more details see the Student Guide  
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 see the Student Guide

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 an accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodations arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadlines to request accommodations for the formally - scheduled exam (if applicable).

### **Plagiarism**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include: (i) 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; (ii) submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else; (iii) using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment; (iv) using another’s data or research findings; (v) failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks; (vi) handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

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.

### **Important Information:**

- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
  - All final grades are subject to the Dean’s approval.
  - 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/>
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**For a list of dates and deadlines, including holidays and exam dates, please visit:**

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/registration/dates-and-deadlines/>