

CGSC 2001 A: Theories in Cognitive Science
Fall 2023
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 Mondays 2:00-3:00 PM;
Fridays 2:30-3:00 PM or by appointment

Course Information

Fall 2023, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:35 – 9:55AM (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: TBA

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). The time holder for this course is Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:35 – 9:55AM. 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 exception to this is your midterm, which is held on October 20th, 2023. 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 September 30th.

Course Text

There is no assigned textbook for this course. You will be reading articles, blogs by scholars, and chapters of books. All readings and links for access are listed below, made freely available online, either through Carleton's library portal, Google Scholar, and similar platforms. **All readings/resources listed on the course syllabus are mandatory.**

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

Assignment 1

Value: 20%

Date: October 8th

Description: This assignment evaluates your understanding and application of course material to date. This assignment includes short answer questions only. 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. You are given until the Sunday rather than the Friday to submit work. This is to provide extra time for those who need it, so be mindful of this when requesting an extension. Further details will be provided on Brightspace with instructions and a rubric.

Midterm

Value: 25%

Date: October 20th

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 October 20th, 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.

Weekly Participation/Discussion Board

Value: 20%

Due: Ongoing—See dates below

Description: Students will use the weekly discussion board to participate in the discussion forum with other peers. Please see Brightspace for further information regarding weekly participation. 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 weekly basis by posting a discussion and responding to at least one peer prior to the deadline. Discussion forums will open on the Monday of each week and close at 11:59 PM on the Sunday of the same week. Since this is an asynchronous course, I will provide additional time over the weekend for you to work through your posts rather than having you submit them on Fridays. That said, 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. There will be a discussion most weeks, though not all weeks. See schedule below for the weeks there are discussion boards. Participation for each discussion board (your initial post and at least one response to a peer) is worth 2.5%, for a total for 20% (8 posts in total).

A grading rubric will be posted on Brightspace.

Final Assignment

Value: 35%

Due: December 8th

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. You are given until the Sunday rather than the Friday to submit work. This is to provide extra time for those who need it, so be mindful of this

when requesting an extension. Further details will be provided on Brightspace with instructions and a rubric.

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 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.

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 should be completed before viewing the weekly course content. Weekly course content will be available on Brightspace the Sunday evening before the start of the week or a couple of days earlier.

All readings and resources listed below are mandatory.

Week 1: September 6th and 8th

Topic: Introduction to the course and theories; What is cognitive science?

Readings:

Thagard, 2023: Cognitive Science <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/cognitive-science/> Read all sections except for section 4 (optional)

Due: Post 1

Week 2: September 13th and 15th

Topic: The role of philosophy in cognitive science

Readings:

Blackmore, 2013: Section 1 (includes chapters 1-3) https://ocul-crl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991022686728805153&context=L&vid=01OCUL_CRL:CRL_DEFAULT&lang=en&search_scope=NewDiscoveryNetwork&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=OCULDiscoveryNetworkNew&query=any,contains,susan%20blackmore%20consciousness&mode=basic

Week 3: September 20th and 22nd

The role of philosophy in cognitive science

Readings:

Blackmore, 2013: Section 2 (includes chapters 4-6) https://ocul-crl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991022686728805153&context=L&vid=01OCUL_CRL:CRL_DEFAULT&lang=en&search_scope=NewDiscoveryNetwork&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=OCULDiscoveryNetworkNew&query=any,contains,susan%20blackmore%20consciousness&mode=basic

Due: Post 2

Week 4: September 27th and 29th

Topic: The role of linguistics in cognitive science

Readings: Boroditsky, 2001: Does language shape thought?: Mandarin and English speakers' conceptions of time

Download and read the full article, not just the abstract

https://journals-scholarsportal-info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/details/00100285/v43i0001/1_dlstmaescot.xml

Bloch, 1991: Language, anthropology and cognitive science

<https://www-jstor-org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/stable/2803828>

Due: Post 3

Week 5: October 4th and 6th

Topic: The role of anthropology in cognitive science

Readings: Stromber, 2009: What is psychological anthropology?

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/sex-drugs-and-boredom/200909/what-is-psychological-anthropology>

Sheehan, 2001: Psychological anthropology and medical anthropology: a brief history of ideas and concepts

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/irish-journal-of-psychological-medicine/article/psychological-anthropology-and-medical-anthropology-a-brief-history-of-ideas-and-concepts/5BB8BB45F242241AEF13C2BA97D02E35>

Bender et al. 2010, Anthropology in cognitive science

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1756-8765.2010.01082.x>

Due: Assignment 1 due no later than October 8th

Week 6: October 11th and 13th

Topic: Taking stock

Readings: No readings

Due: Post 4

Week 7: October 18th and 20th

Topic: Midterm held on October 20th

Readings: No readings

Due: Midterm on October 20th

Fall Break

Week 8: November 1st and 3rd

Topic: The role of psychology in cognitive science

Readings:

Genter, 2010: Psychology in cognitive science: 1978–2038

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1756-8765.2010.01103.x>

Cherry, 2022: What is cognitive psychology?

<https://www.verywellmind.com/cognitive-psychology-4157181>

Due: Post 5

Week 9: November 8th and 10th

Topic: The role of psychology in cognitive science

Readings: Pervez, 2023: Mind in crisis: Examining the cognitive consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic

<https://openventio.org/wp-content/uploads/Mind-in-Crisis-Examining-the-Cognitive-Consequences-of-the-COVID-19-Pandemic-PCSOJ-9-168.pdf>

Due: Post 6

Week 10: November 15th and 17th

Topic: Biology and neuroscience in cognitive science

Readings: Blackmore, 2013: The brain/Section 4 (Chapters 10-12); Evolution/Section 5 (Chapters 13-15)

<https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/lib/oculcarleton-ebooks/detail.action?pq-origsite=primo&docID=615860>

Due: Post 7

Week 11: November 22nd and 24th

Topic: AI in cognitive science

Readings: Blackmore, 2013: Artificial consciousness/Section 6 (Chapters 16-18)

<https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/lib/oculcarleton-ebooks/detail.action?pq-origsite=primo&docID=615860>

Klincewicz, 2016: Artificial intelligence as a means to moral enhancement

<https://philpapers.org/archive/MICAIA-2.pdf>

Due: Post 8

Week 12: November 29th and December 1st and 6th

Topic: Wrapping up, tips for final assignment

Readings: Review APA manual as needed for proper citations, formatting, etc.

Due: Final assignment due no later than December 8th

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

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/>