

## FIRST YEAR SEMINAR: THINKING AND KNOWING

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| <b>Course</b>          | FYSM 1607 B                 |
| <b>Instructor</b>      | Rebecca Merkley             |
| <b>Term</b>            | Fall/Winter                 |
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| <b>Office Location</b> | DT 2202                     |

### COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

The theme for this First Year Seminar (FYSM) is Changing Our Minds and we will explore how biology, culture and technology shape cognition. We will also reflect on how we evaluate evidence and update our opinions in light of conflicting evidence and additional perspectives. We will draw from research in neuroscience, psychology, philosophy, linguistics, and artificial intelligence to discuss topics including: Ethics and Artificial Intelligence, Adolescent Brain Development and Mental Health, Animal Cognition and Indigenous Environmental Relations. In this course, you will also develop transferable skills to help you throughout your undergraduate career.

This course will provide you with the opportunity to:

- Work on writing and other communication skills
- Be introduced to the theories and methods of cognitive science
- Think about how cognitive science can inform ways of solving problems such as how to develop policies for self-driving cars
- Develop critical thinking skills and draw connections among the disciplines that make up cognitive science
- Work as a team

### EVALUATION

TBD

### TEXTBOOK/REQUIRED RESOURCES

TBD