

## Cognition: An Exploration of the Mind

<b>Course</b>	FYSM 1400 A
<b>Instructor</b>	Dean Verger
<b>Term</b>	Fall/Winter 2020-2021
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<b>Office Location</b>	Fall (online). Winter (TBA)
<b>Office Hours</b>	Fall & Winter (TBA)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

Cognition, that space between what you see and what you do. To understand the material and the field we will conduct a few experiments. Cognition is a broad field of study that supports many other fields. For example, how does the field of Cognition allow us to better understand magic? As part of the course, we will survey such areas as attention, embodied cognition, psychophysics, creativity, memory, music, fear, working memory, search and rescue, and even look at animal cognition. Does your dog like music? Can elephants solve problems?

On a more practical level the course will also explore ways of studying that can be applied to other courses. A number of skill development modules are part of the course, skills that have long-term benefits. Students will also learn how to write an annotated bibliography that will be of use in planning for that fourth-year paper or thesis. This is a first-year seminar course. As such, students will learn to understand, analyse, and discuss readings and research. As part of the course, we will also have guest speakers on university-related topics.

During the Fall (and possibly into the Winter) the course will be delivered both synchronously and asynchronously (a blended delivery). The course is scheduled to have two classes a week. I will meet with you online at least once a week. The learning will be done outside of class, with clarification and practice online during the scheduled class time. Some short lectures will be pre-recorded, which will allow you to watch them multiple times (if you wish).

### EVALUATION

The evaluation will focus on writing, analysis, talking, and sharing knowledge. Each written assignment will receive feedback aimed at helping you improve your delivery of knowledge. The presentation process will include direct support from me, and practice. Tasks include an annotated bibliography in the first term, and a poster session on the last day of class in the winter term.

### TEXT

No course text book. We shall read selected papers, news articles, and view some videos.