Course Description   PSYC0066/PSYC2066: Foundations of Cognitive Science   Fall 2016

Textbook
The course uses the recent book:

Instructor
Name: Dr. Janet Hsiao
Office: JCT623 (6/F Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus)
Email: jhsiao@hku.hk
Consultation hour: By appointment

Tutors
Name: Mr. Tommy Cheung*
Office: JCT617
Email: tckl@connect.hku.hk
Consultation hour: By appointment

Name: Mr. Nathan Lau
Office: JCT646
Email: lautt@connect.hku.hk
Consultation hour: By appointment
*Course coordinator

Lecture
Mondays, 9:30am – 11:20am, KK202 (2/F, K. K. Leung Building)

Course Objectives for Students
On completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop basic understanding of core findings from across the interdisciplinary field of Cognitive Science.
2. Develop research skills and the ability to understand research findings from a variety of the constituent disciplines that make up the field of Cognitive Science, and the ability to critically evaluate such research.
3. Critically reflect upon their own conceptions of the nature of consciousness and mental phenomena, and whether these views are supported by theory and empirical evidence.
4. Work as a member of a team to investigate and study mental phenomena.

Prerequisite: LING1000 or LING1001 or PHIL1002 or PHIL1012 or PSYC1001 or CSIS1117 or COMP1117

Course website
You should be able to access the Moodle for this course through your HKU portal once you have
successful enrolled in the course. If you haven’t enrolled for this course, please access Moodle through:
http://hkuportal.hku.hk/moodle/guest, using the corresponding guest account

Username: psyc2066_1a_2016_student
Password: Psy_2066

If you have any problem accessing Moodle, please contact the tutors. Note that it is your responsibility to check the website regularly, because updated information about the course will be posted there. In addition, lecture notes will be posted there before class (Please make your own copies). You are also encouraged to make comments on the site to discuss issues that are relevant to the class.

Course structure
The course comprises lectures running from week 1 to week 13, with a Reading Week in week 7. There will be one in-class review exercise after each lecture starting from week 2. Each exercise may consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, or short-answer questions, and will be held during the last 10 to 20 minutes of the class (see the course timetable).

Tutorials
All tutorials are compulsory; there will be 9 tutorials (see the course timetable). Active participation is encouraged. For each tutorial (except for tutorials 5-7), you will have to submit a question for discussion as an “admission ticket” beforehand. The deadline for submitting your discussion question online is 23:59 on the calendar day two days before your tutorial. During the review tutorials the tutor will go through the discussion questions and lead the discussion. In the end of the review tutorials, students from each tutorial group will take turn to write a summary of the tutorial discussion and submit it to the tutor by the end of day. The tutor then will post it on the tutorial forum on the Moodle to share it with other tutorial groups.

Tutorials are held with the following time slots:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Tommy Cheung</th>
<th>Nathan Lau</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time slot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Venue)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(CPD 2.18)</td>
<td>(CPD 3.06)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15:30-16:20</td>
<td>Wed 13:30-14:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>(CPD 2.18)</td>
<td>(CPD 3.06)</td>
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Online tutorial selection will start from 12:00pm 7th Sep (Wed) to 5:00pm 12th Sep (Mon). If you have difficulties in selecting tutorial, please contact the course coordinator Mr. Tommy Cheung at tckl@connect.hku.hk.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>In-class Review Exercise</th>
<th>Book Chapter</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5 Sept</td>
<td>Introduction&lt;br&gt;The prehistory of cognitive science</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12 Sept</td>
<td>The discipline matures: Three milestones</td>
<td>*Chapter 1-2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>19 Sept</td>
<td>The turn to the brain</td>
<td>*Chapter 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1. Review Chapter 1-2 + Project group formed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>26 Sept</td>
<td>Cognitive science and the integration challenge</td>
<td>*Chapter 4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2. Review Chapter 3 + Project topic determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3 Oct</td>
<td>Tackling the integration challenge</td>
<td>*Chapter 5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3. Review Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10 Oct</td>
<td>Holiday - The day following Double Ninth Festival</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4. Review Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>17 Oct</td>
<td>Reading Week – no class</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>24 Oct</td>
<td>*Midterm Exam (Chapter 1-5) + Group report due. Presentation order announced.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5. Review midterm questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>31 Oct</td>
<td>Physical symbol systems and the language of thought</td>
<td>*Chapter 6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6. Student presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7 Nov</td>
<td>Neural networks and distributed information processing</td>
<td>*Chapter 8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7. Student presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>14 Nov</td>
<td>Student presentation showcase</td>
<td>*Student presentation showcase</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8. Review Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>21 Nov</td>
<td>Review + Individual essay due</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9. Review Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>28 Nov</td>
<td>*Final Exam (25% from Chapter 1-5; 75% from Chapter 6 and 8 and student presentation showcase)</td>
<td>-</td>
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* In-class review/exam
Assessment
Assessment for this course will be 53% coursework and 47% exam. Multiple-choice questions will be used for less than 30% of the total course assessment.

The coursework assessment will consist of three parts:

- **Attendance in the tutorial sessions (13%).** The 9 tutorials are compulsory and each attendance will count as 0.5% of the final mark; **students who are late for more than 5 minutes or who does not submit the discussion question in time will not get the 0.5% mark.** An exception will be made only if a medical certificate is provided; in this case, the discussion question still has to be submitted in time to claim the 0.5% mark. Active participation in tutorial discussion will count 5.5% of the final mark, evaluated by the tutors according to the following criterion:
  - Intellectual contribution (40%)
  - Group discussion skills (30%)
  - Communication of ideas (30%)

The discussion summaries submitted by each tutorial group will be graded according to the quality of the discussion and summarizing skills. In total a tutorial group will submit 6 summaries corresponding to the 6 review tutorials (tutorials 1-4, 8, and 9), and each summary will count 0.5% of the final mark.

- **Group project (40%):** 5% for the group summary report, 15% for an oral presentation of the group project, and 20% for the individual essay.

The exam assessment will consist of three parts:

- **In-class review exercises (open-book quizzes) (7%).** There will be 7 in-class review exercises; each exercise will count 1% of the total mark, and will be 10-20 minutes long.

- **A midterm exam (20%).** The midterm exam will count 20% of the total mark. It will cover chapters 1-5 of the textbook (lectures 1-5). The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. It will be held on **Oct 24 Monday 9:30am to 11:20 am in KK202. Seating arrangement will be announced in Moodle in due course.**

- **A final exam (20%).** The final exam will count 20% of the total mark. It will cover chapters 1-5 (25%), and chapter 6, 8, and the student presentation showcase (75%). The final exam will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. It will be held on **Nov 28 Monday 09:30am to 11:20 am in KK202. Seating arrangement will be announced in Moodle in due course.**

**Submission of coursework**
All written assignments must be submitted online on Moodle; **no email submission will be accepted.** Late submissions, for whatever reasons, will be marked down by 0.5% of the total marks earned for each minute late. Note that medical conditions do not warrant an extension of the deadline. Technical issues will be considered only if there is an official announcement from
Moodle saying that the system is unavailable at the deadline. Thus, please try to finish and submit the coursework as early as possible.

**Feedback policy**
Please note that we will not return any submitted reports or exam papers. However, we will review in-class review exercises and the midterm exam questions during tutorials to help students revise. In addition, students can get individual feedback about the final exam and reports after the semester, by arrangement with the instructor/tutor. Students will be notified when marks are available online.

**Marks appeal**
Any dispute on marks you receive on a written assignment or quiz must be made within one week after the marks are available. Another member of the teaching team will re-grade the materials (without seeing the comments and marks given by the original grader). The average of the two marks will be final.

**Make-up policy**
No make-up will be given for any exercise/exam missed. However, if a medical certificate is provided for the absence, we will estimate your mark for that exercise/exam, using an empirically derived formula, from the marks you and other students obtain in the course.

**Academic honesty**
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, interfering with grading, etc.) will receive a grade of F in this course and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for further disciplinary action. There will be no exceptions.

**Plagiarism**
All written assignments will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. **Note that no credit will be given for an assignment that contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied.** These penalties include a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to your Faculty for consideration of possible disciplinary action. **Please be sure to read this website to know more about how to avoid plagiarism: http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/**

Note that you also should not use any materials submitted for another course for the coursework in this course without proper acknowledgement (i.e., self-plagiarism). Also, for group projects, all group members are responsible for the group submission and will receive the same penalty if plagiarized materials are discovered.

**Final grade**
Each assessment is designed to assess students’ knowledge of a combination of different course objectives. Students’ final grade will be given according to the following criteria:
A: Excellent (total mark 80+): Students demonstrate consistent evidence of achieving the course objectives and substantial originality in identifying issues and in generating, analyzing, and communicating arguments.

B: Good (total mark 70~79): Students demonstrate frequent evidence of achieving the course objectives and originality in defining and analyzing issues and in creating solutions.

C: Satisfactory (total mark 60~69): Students demonstrate evidence of achieving the course objectives, but some important parts are omitted, e.g., misunderstanding of the materials, or lack of critical thinking, etc.

D: Poor (total mark 50~59): Students barely demonstrate evidence of achieving the course objectives; have assembled the bare minimum of information, poorly digested, and not well organized in presentation.

F: Fail (total mark < 50): Students fail to achieve the course objectives and demonstrate faulty understanding of the fundamental concepts.
Introduction

In this group project, each group is going to interview a cognitive science program alumnus or a researcher who is conducting interdisciplinary research in cognitive science and learn about their experience and research. Each project group will consist of 2-3 students, and students in a group have to be from the same tutorial session. A project preference form will be uploaded on Moodle after the end of all tutorial groups in week 3 (the specific date and time will be announced later). Each student group will fill in a preference form with 10 choices and send it to course coordinator (Mr. Tommy Cheung at tckl@connect.hku.hk) by the end of week 3 (24 Sept). We will then assign projects to student groups on a first-come-first-serve basis. No more than two student groups can be assigned to the same project topic. Students who do not submit a preference form by the end of week 3 will be assigned to join other student groups or form a new group by the teaching team. The tutor will help tutorial participants form project groups. Each group will conduct the interview during week 5-7.

Below please find a list of potential interviewees. If you would like to interview those who are not on the list, please discuss with the instructor first. The purpose of the group project is to give students an opportunity to learn from cognitive science researchers about current research and issues in cognitive science, as well as their experience on career planning as a cognitive scientist.

Potential Project List

Alumni of the HKU Cognitive Science Program:

- Dr. Louis Chan, Department of Psychology, Hong Kong Baptist University (clouis@hkbu.edu.hk)

- Dr. Joey Cham, Co-founder and CEO of Axon Labs Limited (joeycham@axon-labs.com)
  Axon labs: [http://www.axon-labs.com](http://www.axon-labs.com)
  Snapword: [http://snapword.axon-labs.com](http://snapword.axon-labs.com)

- Dr. Winnie Chan, Department of Psychology, HKU (winyc@graduate.hku.hk)


- Dr. Joseph Cheng, Department of Psychology, HKU (josephck@hku.hk)

- Dr. Elaine Lau, Department of Linguistic, HKU (elaine02@hku.hk)

- Dr. Alan Lee, Department of Applied Psychology, Lingnan University (alanlee@ln.edu.hk)

- Dr. Alex Li, Department of Counselling and Psychology, Hong Kong Shue Yan University (woli@hksyu.edu)

- Dr. On-Ting Lo, College of Professional and Continuing Education, PolyU (otinglo@hkcc-polyu.edu.hk)

**Other Cognitive Science Researchers:**

- Dr. Antoni Chan, Department of Computer Science, City University of Hong Kong (abchan@cityu.edu.hk)

- Dr. Sing Hang Cheung, Department of Psychology, HKU (singhang@hku.hk)

- Dr. Janet Hsiao, Department of Psychology, HKU (jhsiao@hku.hk)
- Dr. Heeju Hwang, Department of Linguistics, HKU (heeju@hku.hk)

- Dr. Li Li, Department of Psychology, HKU (lili@hku.hk)

- Dr. Tianyin Liu, Sau Po Centre on Ageing, HKU (tianyin@hku.hk)

- Dr. Wai Ting Siok, Department of Linguistics, HKU

- Dr. I-Fan Su, Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, HKU (ifansu@hku.hk)

- Mr. Ricky Tso, Department of Psychology, HKU, & Department of Psychological Studies, Education University of Hong Kong (richievyt@gmail.com)

Before the interview, group members should read the interviewee’s representative publications listed above to have some basic understanding about his/her research topic. During the interview, group members should cover the following points:
- Understand the interdisciplinary nature of the interviewee’s research study: What is the research about? Why is it important or interesting? What are the key findings? What are the related disciplines in this research study?
- Understand the research study in terms of the space of cognitive science: What are the techniques used in the research? What is the level of organization in neuroscience and the cognitive domains under examination?
- Understand the interviewee’s background: Why did he/she choose to study in cognitive science? Why did he/she choose to do research in his/her research field?
- Understand current issues and future perspectives in this research area: What are the most important trends/issues in this research area or in cognitive science research in general? Are there any advices for current cognitive science students?
After the interview, group members will work on a group report and prepare a 15-minute presentation together based on what they learn from the interview to share this experience with other students. We will form project groups during the tutorial in week 3, and project groups should decide on which person to interview and submit the project preference form by the end of week 3.

The assessment of the group project consists 3 parts:
1. Group summary report (5% of the final mark).
2. Oral presentation (15% of the final mark).
3. Individual essay (20% of the final mark).

1. Group summary report

Submit group members’ names together with the interviewee’s name and a summary describing what is going to be presented in the group oral presentation (word limit: 400 words) on the Moodle by 23:59 on Oct 24. It should be submitted to Moodle by only one group member. If more than one copy is submitted to Moodle by different group members, the teaching team will randomly choose one as the official submission and the mark will be reduced by 10%.

The summary should cover the four points listed above regarding the interview, and a brief reflection/conclusion. Relevant references (following the APA style; see the formatting requirements below) and division of labor among group members for the oral presentation should be included in the end (the 400 word limit does not include these). The group may also choose to report the percentage of contribution among group members (which should be agreed among the members) when the contribution to the project was not equal, and the marks will be given accordingly. Students whose names are not in one of the groups submitted by this deadline will lose 10% of the mark on the individual essay and oral presentation, in addition to a zero mark on the group summary report. The individual essay and oral presentation marks will also be reduced by 10% (of the total marks earned) if the group project is not done by a group of the prescribed size in the summary report.

Students in a group are supposed to work together on the summary report. The summary will be assessed through the following criteria:
- Addressing the task (20%)
- Understanding, analysis, synthesis, and application of knowledge (30%)
- Argumentation (30%)
- Structure/organization (10%)
- Writing mechanics (10%)

2. Oral presentation
The oral presentation will be assessed according to the following criteria:
- Addressing the task (10%)
- Understanding, analysis, synthesis, and application of knowledge (20%)
- Argumentation (20%)
- Structure/organization (20%)
- Delivery (20%)
- Presentation mechanics (10%)

The oral presentation should be less than 15 minutes long. Students will do the presentation during the tutorial in week 9 and 10, and the best ones will be invited to present their project during the lecture in week 11 for student presentation showcase. Student groups who are invited and present their projects in the showcase will receive 2% extra mark towards their final grades.

Each group member should contribute equally to the group presentation. When the contribution to the project presentation was not equal, the group may choose to report to the tutor before the presentation the percentage of contribution among group members (which should be agreed among the members), and the marks will be given accordingly.

3. Individual essay

Students are required to submit an individual essay based on the interviewee’s research study and the interview. In addition to the group materials, students are encouraged to look for additional information. The purpose of the individual essay is to reflect what students have learned from the group project, the course materials, and the feedback of the presentation. The essay should consist of the following sections:

[1] The interdisciplinary nature of the study: What is the research about? Why is it important/interesting? What are the key findings? What are the related disciplines in this research study? (Word limit: 700 words)

[2] The understanding of the study in terms of the space of cognitive science: What are the techniques used in the research? What is the level of organization in neuroscience and the cognitive domains under examination? (Word limit: 100 words)

[3] The understanding of the related issues and future perspectives in this research area: What are the most important trends/issues in this research area or in cognitive science research in general? What is your reflection on this interview project? (Word limit: 700 words)

[4] References

The individual essay will be assessed by the following criteria:
- Addressing the task (20%)
- Intellectual engagement with concepts, theories or issues (30%)
- Personal development and reflection (40%)
- Writing mechanics (10%)
Formatting requirements

1. For both reports, the actual word count should be noted at the end of each section. If your report is longer than the maximal length, your grade will be based on the text within the word limit.

2. Use 12-point Times New Roman font, make it single spaced, and maintain at least a 1 inch margin at the top, bottom, left, and right edges of the paper.

3. Use APA-style formatting for references (For more information, see http://www.apastyle.org/).

   For example, the basic format for referring to journal articles is:

   Example:

   The basic format for referring to a chapter in a book is:
   Author, A., & Author, B. (Year). Chapter title. In A. Editor, B. Editor, & C. Editor (Eds.), Title of the book (pp. xx-xx). Place name: Publisher.

   Example:

   When referring to the articles in the text, use “ … (Hsiao & Cottrell, 2008; Cottrell & Hsiao, 2011).”

   For referring to other types of references, please see:
   http://www.apastyle.org/learn/quick-guide-on-references.aspx

Be sure to properly cite any references and sources you use in the reports, such as images, explanations, histories, etc. The reports have to be written in English; be sure to spell-check and proofread your reports. You may use bold headings and subheadings, and you may center titles and headings if you wish. You may use left-justified or fully-justified alignment for the body of your paper.

Grading

The individual essay report is due on Nov. 21 at 23:59. Please submit an electronic copy of your report online on Moodle before the deadline. No email submission will be accepted. You are being graded on the content of your reports and also on the clarity of your writing and
the structure of your reports. If you make your writing clear, proofread for clarity and grammar, spell-check your paper, and follow the format guideline, you are likely to get a high grade.

**Online resources:**
PsycInfo: http://www.apa.org/psycinfo/
Google Scholar: http://scholar.google.com/
HKU Library: http://lib.hku.hk/
Scientific American: http://www.scientificamerican.com/