**Seminar in Cognitive Sciences**

*(PSYC 2067)*

**Spring 2018**

Department of Psychology  
The University of Hong Kong

---

**Lectures:**  
Tuesday 1630 – 1820, CPD LG.34

**Instructor:** Dr. Joseph Cheng  
Office: JCT 616  
Telephone: 3917-8205  
Email: josephck@hku.hk  
Consultation Hours: Thurs 1500 – 1600, or by appointment

**Tutor/Coordinator:** Eric Ma  
Office: JCT6.13  
Email: mkyeric@gmail.com  
Office Hour: By appointment

**Tutorial Hours:** Tue 1530;1630;1730  
Tutorial Venue: All in LG.34

---

**Course Description**

This seminar course will adopt a case study / problem based approach to illustrate how cognitive scientist investigate different problems and how cognitive science can be applied in different settings. The goal is to provide student a deeper understanding on research methods, theory, and application of cognitive science. Students will be divided into groups to investigate different cases and problems. They will have a chance to select areas in cognitive science, set their own learning objectives, and conduct mini-research on different cases.

---

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Better understand how cognitive scientists from disciplines join together to attack a research problem.
- Analyse a phenomenon or a case in cognitive science perspectives
- Summarise, evaluate, and analyse different studies critically to reach their own conclusion.

---

**Textbook**


We will use this book as our case book. It is well-written and very interesting and inspiring to read. Selected chapters will be discussed in this course.
Problem based learning (PBL)
Problem based learning is a student centred teaching method in which student can, by analysing different cases or problems, develop their own learning objectives that they are motivated to achieve. Besides, subject knowledge, PBL has been found to promote self-learning and the development of critical thinking and communication skills (Duch et al, 2001).

After the first two introductory lectures, we will split into 2-4 study groups. In the group, the facilitator will guide the group to go through a case in the casebook, studying it from different perspectives, to come up with some study questions. You will then form a group of three to four to research on the questions in the coming week and present your answer in the next (odd week) study group meeting.

Computer Resources
Lecture slides, homework assignments, and readings will be made available on Moodle. We will use SPSS for statistical analyses.

If you have trouble accessing the course website, please contact your tutor.

Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In class discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In class presentation</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In class discussion
You will form into groups of six to discuss the case. You are encouraged to argue and disagree with your groupmates. No consensus is needed to be reached.

In class group presentation
After the first session of each case, you are required to form a group of three, conduct a literature search according to your selected learning objects, and give a 20 minutes presentation on your findings and analysis in the next session. You are required to take a stance and defend it.

Individual reflective journal
At the end of this course, you will submit a reflective journal to summarise what you have learnt in this course and reflect on it. The deadline is 2359, 1st May, 2018.

Homework Submission
No late homework assignments will be accepted, unless a valid medical proof is presented. Each assignment submission should have the course code, instructor’s name, your name, UID at the top of the first page clearly.

Feedback Policy
Students can expect to receive feedback within three weeks after submitting written assignments and the quizzes. Quiz paper will not be returned to students; however, students can get individual feedback about the quizzes through making appointments with their tutors.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic honesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, interfering with grading, falsification and fabrication of data in any academic exercise etc.) will receive a grade of F in this course and will be reported to the Department/Faculty Office/University Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action. There will be no exceptions. If you are not sure what constitutes the academic offense

Plagiarism: A hardcopy and a softcopy are required for all written assignments. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. 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 participation in course tutorials and a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to the Department/Faculty Office/University Disciplinary Committee for consideration of possible disciplinary action.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16/1</td>
<td>Introduction - Marr’s three levels of analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>23/1</td>
<td>The five major disciplines in cognitive science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>30/1</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Case: The Lost Mariner I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6/2</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Case: The Lost Mariner I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>13/2</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Case: A matter of identity I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>20/2</td>
<td>No Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>27/2</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Case: A matter of identity II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>6/3</td>
<td>No Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>13/3</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Case: The Murder I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>20/3</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Case: The Murder II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>27/3</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Case: The Disembodied Lady I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Case: The Disembodied Lady II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Case: The Twins I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>17/4</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Case: The Twins II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>24/4</td>
<td>Wrap up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>