

Syllabus

PSYC/COMP 7/8514: Cognitive Science Seminar

“Minds, and 2 or more...”

Day and time: Wednesdays, 2:30-5:30pm

Location: FIT 405

Instructors:

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Office hours: By appointment

Course website: <http://7514s09.blogspot.com/>

Course description:

This spring's seminar will focus on the cognitive science of human groups of size 2 or more. Much of cognitive science in the past 5 decades has focused on cognitive processes inside a single individual, and less on how these processes interact in groups. A core characteristic of virtually all human behavior is that it occurs in groups. For example, 2 or 3 people engage in conversation. That many or more can form a family unit, itself spreading into a broader network of social relations. Subcultures, cultures, and entire societies extend to higher levels. We will focus on how the fields of psychology, computer science, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, and other areas of cognitive science tackle the problems of understanding group structure and behavior.

Textbook / readings: Readings will be posted on the course website weekly.

Format:

From 2:30pm to approximately 3:50pm, students and instructors will discuss weekly readings. After a break, at 4pm, and for the remainder of the class, a visiting scholar will provide a presentation on that week's topic.

Evaluation

Weekly thoughts (40%). These will be posted to the course website on the Tuesday prior to that week's class. Thoughts will be a paragraph of questions or

discussion points that interested you from the paper (**at least 200, and at most 300, words in length**).

Discussion leading (30%). Each student will lead discussion once during the course. Leaders will be tasked with summarizing the papers, and initiating discussion by addressing weekly thoughts. A PowerPoint presentation, containing summary materials and weekly thoughts from peers, is encouraged.

Participation/attendance (30%) includes your contributions to class discussion and attendance (including not just how much you participate, but also how well you help your peers to contribute).

Important Notices

Plagiarism or cheating may result in your case being referred to the Academic Discipline Committee that addresses academic misconduct. This decision is up to the discretion of the instructor. Students are expected at all times to behave in accordance with the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students should be familiar with the academic regulations outlined in the Student Bulletin of the University of Memphis and to observe policies regarding student conduct published in the Student Handbook.

Diversity means the fair representation of all groups of individuals, the inclusion of minority perspectives and voices, and the appreciation of different cultural and socioeconomic group practices. We aspire to foster and maintain an atmosphere that is free from discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. Academic courses will aim at providing opportunities for students to discuss issues of diversity including, but not limited to, ethnicity, gender, disability and sexual orientation as they can be related to course content. The University of Memphis has adopted policies prohibiting discrimination based upon race, sex, disability, or sexual orientation. In addition, the American Psychological Association has explicit policies regarding the issues of and writing about race, gender, class, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, and religion. You may find information on these standards in the APA Publication Manual or on the APA webpage: <http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/>.

If you have a disability that interferes with completion of this course, please let the instructor know privately at the beginning of the course, and s/he will seek consultation on how best to adapt course materials or instruction. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services for the university at 678-2880.

Course announcements as well as consultation with the instructor **will occur via e-mail messages**. Each student must maintain an e-mail account and is responsible for checking for course messages on a regular basis. Students are also responsible for notifying the instructor if their e-mail address changes during the term. The University of Memphis offers free e-mail services to students. Students without an e-mail account can bring their university ID cards, swipe them, and set up an account at the Smith or McWherter computer labs or students can bring their cards to the information technology helpdesk, room 124 in Administration Building for assistance.