Cognitive science is concerned with how humans, non-human animals, and computers acquire, represent, manipulate, and use information. As an interdisciplinary field it combines research and theory from computer science (e.g., artificial intelligence), cognitive psychology, philosophy, linguistics, and neuroscience, and to some extent evolutionary biology, math, and anthropology. Complex issues of cognition are not easily addressed using traditional intra-disciplinary tools. Cognitive researchers in any discipline typically employ a collection of analytic and modeling tools from across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Thus, the methods and research agenda of cognitive science are broader than those of any of the fields that have traditionally contributed to cognitive science. The Cognitive Science Program is designed to provide students with the broad interdisciplinary foundation needed to approach issues of cognition.

THE CONCENTRATION

The concentration in Cognitive Science consists of six courses, including an introductory course, four electives, and a senior seminar.

Minds, Brains, and Intelligent Behavior (COGS 222) is the entry point into the concentration, and provides an interdisciplinary perspective on issues of cognition. Ideally, it should be taken before the end of the sophomore year. Emphasizing the highly interdisciplinary nature of the field, the four electives must be distributed over at least three course prefixes. In the fall of the senior year, concentrators will participate in a senior seminar (COGS 493) or a senior tutorial, depending on enrollments.

Required Courses

COGS/PHIL/PSYC 222 Minds, Brains, and Intelligent Behavior: An Introduction to Cognitive Science

COGS 493 Senior Seminar or Senior Tutorial (In years where 493 is not offered, students should contact the Program Chair for details).

Elective Courses

Four electives are required, chosen from at least three prefixes, at most two of which can be at the 100 level.

BIOL 204(S)Animal Behavior
    Taught by: Manuel Morales
    Catalog details

CSCI 134(F, S)Introduction to Computer Science
    Taught by: Daniel Aalberts, Duane Bailey, Molly Q Feldman
    Catalog details

CSCI 361 / MATH 361(F, S)Theory of Computation
    Taught by: Aaron Williams
    Catalog details

CSCI 373Artificial Intelligence
    Taught by: Jon Park
    Catalog details

CSCI 374 T(F, S)Machine Learning
    Taught by: Andrea Danyluk, Anna Neufeld
    Catalog details

NSCI 201 / BIOL 212 / PSYC 212(F)Neuroscience
    Taught by: Shivon Robinson, Tim Lebestky
    Catalog details

PHIL 216 / ENVI 216(S)Philosophy of Animals
    Taught by: Joseph Cruz
    Catalog details

PHIL 388 TConsciousness


Recommended Courses

The following courses are recommended for students seeking a richer background in cognitive science. These will not count as electives for the cognitive science concentration.

BIOL 305(S) Evolution
- Taught by: Luana Maroja

MATH 250(F, S) Linear Algebra
- Taught by: John Wiltshire-Gordon, Susan Loepp

PHIL 209 / STS 209 Philosophy of Science
- Taught by: Bojana Mladenovic

PSYC 201(F, S) Experimentation and Statistics
- Taught by: Kenneth Savitsky, Noah Sandstrom, Jeremy Cone, Catherine Stroud, Jeremy C Simon

STAT 101(F, S) Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis
- Taught by: Shaoyang Ning, Daniel Turek

STAT 201(F, S) Statistics and Data Analysis
- Taught by: Elizabeth Upton, Richard De Veaux, Anna Plantinga

STAT 344(F) Statistical Design of Experiments
- Taught by: Laurie Tupper

Formal admission to candidacy for honors will occur at the end of the fall semester of the senior year and will be based on promising performance in COGS 493. This program will consist of COGS W31-494(S), and will be supervised by members of the advisory committee from at least two departments. Presentation of a thesis, however, should not be interpreted as a guarantee of a degree with honors.

STUDY ABROAD

Students who wish to discuss plans for study abroad are invited to meet with any member of the Cognitive Science advisory committee.

FAQ

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes, in many cases, though students should be sure to contact the department.

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Complete syllabus and course description, including readings/assignments.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study...
away?

No.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?

No. As long as the study abroad courses conform to the interdisciplinary distribution requirements of the concentration.

Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?

No.

Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)

No.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:

None to date.

COGS 222  (F)  Minds, Brains, and Intelligent Behavior: An Introduction to Cognitive Science

Cross-listings:  PSYC 222  PHIL 222  COGS 222

Primary Cross-listing

This course will emphasize interdisciplinary approaches to the study of intelligent systems, both natural and artificial. Cognitive science synthesizes research from cognitive psychology, computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, and contemporary philosophy. Special attention will be given to the philosophical foundations of cognitive science, representation and computation in symbolic and connectionist architectures, concept acquisition, problem solving, perception, language, semantics, reasoning, and artificial intelligence.

Class Format: This hybrid course will meet in-person and will also be available for remote video attendance and participation. Remote students will be expected to attend class synchronously with the in-person lecture and will not be able to watch lectures at other times, so must be available during the class hours in the catalog. Supplemental material—e.g., office hours, study sessions for exams, background discussion for weekly assignments—will be delivered on-line.

Requirements/Evaluation: midterm and final exams, and self-paced weekly exercises

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or any PHIL course or CSCI 134 or permission of instructor; background in more than one of these is recommended. It is not necessary to contact the instructor to indicate a special interest in the course.

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: sophomore and first-year students, with additional preference given to students who satisfy more of the prerequisites.

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: meets Contemporary Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement only if registration is under PHIL

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSYC 222 (D2) PHIL 222 (D2) COGS 222 (D2)

Attributes: Linguistics  PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses  PSYC 200-level Courses

Fall 2020

LEC Section: H1  TR 11:30 am - 12:45 pm  Joseph L. Cruz

COGS 493  (F)  Advanced Topics in Mind and Cognition

In the last decade the science of the mind has continued to draw on its 20th century history as well as expand its methodological repertoire. In this tutorial we will investigate current trends in mind and cognition by considering research in cognitive neuroscience, embodied cognition, dynamic systems theory, and empirical approaches to consciousness. Throughout, we will attend both to the specific empirical details as well as the conceptual
foundations of this work. We will discuss how it elaborates, expands, and sharpens early views of the domain and methodology of philosophy of mind and cognitive science.

**Class Format:** This tutorial will be offered remotely at a time agreed upon by the students and instructor.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Substantial essay (5-7 pages) every two weeks on assigned material and commentary on tutorial partner's work. Essays will be due in advance and presented orally in tutorial.

**Prerequisites:** Senior Cognitive Science concentrator

**Enrollment Limit:** 4

**Enrollment Preferences:** Open only to Senior Cognitive Science concentrators

**Expected Class Size:** 2

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

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COGS 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Cognitive Science

The senior concentrator, having completed the senior seminar and with approval from the advisory committee, may devote the spring semester to a senior thesis based on the fall research project.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Determined by thesis advisor

**Prerequisites:** permission of program chair

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** Senior COGS concentrator

**Expected Class Size:** NA

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

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COGS 497 (F) Independent Study: Cognitive Science

Cognitive Science independent study.

**Class Format:** This course is coordinated in agreement with a sponsoring Cognitive Science faculty member. Upon approval, meetings will be conducted virtually.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Determined by individual instructors

**Prerequisites:** permission of program chair

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** Cognitive Science concentrators

**Expected Class Size:** NA

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

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COGS 498 (S) Independent Study: Cognitive Science
Cognitive Science independent study.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Determined by individual instructors

**Prerequisites:** permission of program chair

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** Upperclass students

**Expected Class Size:** NA

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

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Spring 2021

IND Section: R1  TBA  Andrea Danyluk

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**Winter Study**---------------------------------------------------------------

**COGS 31 (W) Senior Thesis: Cognitive Science**

May be taken by students registered for Cognitive Science 494.

**Class Format:** independent study

**Grading:** pass/fail only

Not offered current academic year

**COGS 99 (W) Ind Study: Cognitive Science**

Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

**Class Format:** independent study

**Grading:** pass/fail only

Not offered current academic year