

Cognitive Systems (COGS) 401 Fall 2017
TTh 11:00-12:20 Swing 107

Instructor:

Dr. Lawrence Ward, Psychology, lward@psych.ubc.ca, 604-822-6309

Teaching Assistant:

Peter Crout, Cognitive Systems, cogs401@gmail.com

Office hours by appointment

Course Outline

This seminar-format course is aimed at exposing advanced undergraduates (and some others) to the work of active researchers in cognitive systems here at UBC and elsewhere. Students have the opportunity to consider and discuss critically the conceptual frameworks, methods, results, and broader implications of current research.

The course will consist primarily of a weekly Presentation (usually a lecture in which a researcher presents their findings, accompanied by Question & Answer), alternating with a seminar discussion based on the Presentation and additional readings provided by the presenter. Periodically, students will write a short (750-word) research essay (4 in all) exploring a research idea raised by one or more of the presenters/authors they have heard/read over the previous several weeks.

Finally, students will prepare, present (twice), revise, and submit a more extensive research proposal that contains a review of the literature pertinent to the chosen project. Guidelines for research essays and the longer (2500 word) research proposal can be found on the cogs 401 website.

Grading

All UBC grading policies will be in effect, including those forbidding plagiarism. All questions about marks should be addressed in writing to Dr. Ward.

Grade breakdown:

Class participation	15% (attendance, contribution to discussions)
Research Essays	60% (4 x 15% = 60%)
Research proposal	25% (two presentations-pass/fail, written proposal marked)
Total	<hr/> 100%

Tentative Schedule Cogs 401

Day	Date	Event
Thursday	Sept 7	Introduction to the course
Tuesday	Sept 12	Lecture 1/Ward
Thursday	Sept 14	Seminar 1/Ward
Tuesday	Sept 19	Lecture 2/Hudson Kam
Thursday	Sept 21	Seminar 2/Hudson Kam
Tuesday	Sept 26	Prelim Research Ideas Presented (1 minute)
Thursday	Sept 28	Lecture 3/Simmons (12:30 LSK 200)
		1st Research Essay (750 words) due (Ward/Hudson Kam)
Tuesday	Oct 3	Seminar 3/Simmons
Thursday	Oct 5	Lecture 4/van der Loos
Tuesday	Oct 10	Seminar 4/van der Loos
Thursday	Oct 12	TA Presentation /Research essay Feedback
Tuesday	Oct 17	Lecture 5/
Thursday	Oct 19	Seminar 5/
		2nd Research Essay due (Simmons/van der Loos)
Tuesday	Oct 24	Preliminary Research Proposals: Background
Thursday	Oct 26	Preliminary Research Proposals: Background
Tuesday	Oct 31	Preliminary Research Proposals: Background
Thursday	Nov 2	Lecture 6/Knight (5:00 PM; Lee Alumni Centre)
Friday	Nov 3	Lecture 7/Thompson (3:00 PM; Buch A201)
Tuesday	Nov 7	Seminar 6/ Knight
Thursday	Nov 9	Seminar 7/Thompson
Tuesday	Nov 14	????Re Final projects?
		3rd Research Essay Due (TBA5/Knight)
Thursday	Nov 16	Lecture 8/TBA
Tuesday	Nov 21	Seminar 8/TBA
Thursday	Nov 23	Final Presentations
Tuesday	Nov 28	Final Presentations
Thursday	Nov 30	Final Presentations
		4th Research Essay due (Thompson/TBA8)
Friday	Dec 9	Final written research proposals due (max 2500 words)