



University Honors Program
2018-2019 (Offerings subject to change)

HON 207

Topics in
Cognitive Studies

AUTUMN QUARTER

Mind and Consciousness – J. Hill – LPC TTH 1:00-2:30

The aim of this course is to take up theories of mind and consciousness developed in the tradition of analytic philosophy, especially those involving the role and philosophy of language. These theories stand in contrast to “computational” models of the mind, attempting to account for the plasticity of consciousness.

Linguistics, B. Hoot – LPC TTH 2:40-4:10

This course will investigate language as a property of the human mind, focusing on the mental representation of language. Students will investigate data from diverse languages to illustrate how linguists think and reason, drawing connections between linguistic knowledge and other types of cognition.

How People Learn – M. Kalchman – LPC MW 11:20-12:50

In this course we will consider traditional and modern models for how people learn. Students will explore how these theories support or conflict with how we believe we see ourselves as learners, and discuss how research into how people learn has made an impact on schooling and teaching practices.

WINTER QUARTER

Speech Practices and Thought – R. Rotenberg – LPC TTH 9:40-11:10

This course will use functional linguistics (the study of language in everyday contexts) approach to explore the puzzles surrounding human consciousness. Students will study conversation as a means of exploring consciousness and enhancing knowledge of the cognitive processes that link individuals together in systems of meaning.

The Design of Learning Environments – H. Conklin – LPC MW 1:00-2:30

This course will examine research and theories on various factors that foster effective learning environments to consider the most fruitful ways to design environments that promote optimal learning experiences. Students will reflect on the settings in which their own learning has flourished (and has not) and deliberate the merits of current examples of learning environments, including different kinds of schools, museums, and other informal learning spaces.

WINTER QUARTER, cont.

Mind, Consciousness, and Meaning – J. Elkayam – LPC TTH 1:00-2:30

In this course, students will explore the burgeoning field of cognitive studies by way of its relation to the largely analytic tradition called philosophy of mind. With a focus on phenomenology, which addresses issues including the problem of mind/body dualism, whether mind and brain are identical, and to what extent science should enjoy a privileged position in relation to these, students will discover enactive approaches to cognitive riddles.

Cognitive Neuroscience – P. Gomez – LPC – MW 2:40-4:10

A central principle in the development of cognitive science, an interdisciplinary field concerned with the study of structures and functions of the human mind, has been the assumption that the mind operates as an information-processing device. Formal theories of mental processes are developed and refined in the form of computational or mathematical models to provide an argumentative framework that can be evaluated and can generate predictions for novel situations.

SPRING QUARTER

Mind, Consciousness, and Meaning – J. Elkayam – LPC MW 2:40-4:10

Please see description above

Social Influences Human Cognition – M. Martinez-Firestone LPC TTH 9:40-11:10

The course will focus on the effects of markets, networks, hierarchies, organizations and institutions on individual cognition, while exploring how cognition affects those social structures.