

PSY525 Cognitive Seminar: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (Fall 2013)

Instructor: Ping Li
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Overview

This course focuses on the interdisciplinary perspectives of cognitive science, a broad domain of inquiry in understanding how the mind works and how the brain supports the mind. It examines fundamental issues about how knowledge is acquired, represented, and processed in the human brain and artificial systems in the context of five traditionally separate domains of study: psychology, neuroscience, language science, artificial intelligence, and philosophy. The course will review foundational theoretical issues at the forefront of brain and cognition research, and the methodologies involved in behavioral, computational, neuroanatomical, and neuropsychological approaches to mind and brain. Critical thinking and analytic skills are promoted through students' active involvement in reading assignments, class discussion, class presentation, and term papers.

Objectives

1. To promote critical thinking of core theoretical issues in cognitive sciences
2. To examine contemporary neurocognitive perspectives, methods, & approaches
3. To engage students in a broad conceptual thinking of interdisciplinary research

Grading

Class discussion and presentation (30%);
Mid-term and Final papers (50%); Research paper (20%)

Text

The cognitive sciences: An interdisciplinary approach. (2nd Edition, 2013).
Carolyn Sobel and Paul Li, Sage Publications.
(and other primary source supplementary readings)

Pre-requisites

PSU graduate student status or consent of instructor