



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

COGS 100-3: Exploring the Mind

INSTRUCTOR: Rada Trnavac **COGS 100:** Tuesdays 2:30 – 5:20
OFFICE: TBA **OFFICE HRS:** TBA
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An introduction to Cognitive Science. Cognitive Science is an interdisciplinary field that has arisen from the convergence on a common set of questions by philosophy, computer science, artificial intelligence, linguistics, psychology, and neuroscience. Cognitive scientists view the human mind as a complex system that receives, stores, retrieves, transforms, and transmits information. Each discipline makes its own distinctive contribution to the goal of formulating a computational theory of the human mind. Previously, each discipline sought to understand the mind from its own perspective, benefiting little from progress in other fields because of different methods employed. With the advent of Cognitive Science, however, common interests and theoretical ideas have overcome methodological differences, and interdisciplinary interaction has become the hallmark of this field.

This course examines how the mind carries out functions such as memory, language, and vision. The major themes common to the understanding of the cognitive science of memory, language and vision including nature and nurture, categories and representations, concept formation and categorization, problem solving, computations, and different types of mental representations will be discussed together with the role of language in mental activity. Training in cognitive science prepares students admirably well for many of the careers that are major growth fields of the twenty-first century, including: computer science and communication, information processing and data retrieval, human-computer interaction and computational linguistics, psychology, psycholinguistics, and cognitive linguistics.

PREREQUISITE: None. Open to all students. Students with credit for COGS 200 may not take COGS 100 for further credit.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Cognitive Science: An Introduction to the Science of Mind.

José Luis Bermúdez. Cambridge University Press, 2010 ISBN: 978-0-521-70837-1

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be expected to keep up with all course readings and to participate in class discussions. Grades are earned through assignments (25%), quizzes (25%), a midterm exam (20%), and a comprehensive final (30%).

Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability, must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (604-291-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca)

NOTE: COGS 100 has no prerequisites. It is designated a Breadth course for Social Sciences, Humanities and Science. This Course will be offered at the SURREY Campus.