Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Cognitive Psychology III (H002136)

Course
Specifications

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019
Brass, Marcel
PP02
lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019
Master of Science in Psychology (main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology)
6 A
Exchange Programme in Psychology
6 A

Teaching languages
English

Keywords
intentional action, cognitive control, cognitive neuroscience, prefrontal cortex

Position of the course
Cognitive Psychology II is an integral part of the Master’s program Experimental Psychology. Given that the program teaches competences that are crucial for researchers, the aim of the course is to give students the opportunity to discuss ongoing research with internationally recognised scientists. Furthermore, the course presents research topics that are usually not covered in the curriculum but are nevertheless relevant in the context of cognitive neuroscience.

Contents
The course will give an overview of recent neuro-cognitive findings in the areas of cognitive neuroscience. One of three research areas will be covered:
1. Intentional control of action
   This topic includes research on consciousness, volition and the philosophical question of free will.
2. Cognitive control
   This topic includes research on cognitive flexibility, working memory, dual tasking and the implementation of verbal instructions.
3. Embodied cognition
   This topic is related to research on the control of complex movements, sense of agency, body representation and role of embodiment in language.

Initial competences
Cognitive psychologie II

Final competences
1. To be able to identify and reproduce the key experiments in a specific research domain.
2. To critically evaluate empirical research designs and be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of empirical studies. This includes potential flaws in the design and methodological shortcomings.
3. To understand and reproduce the most crucial theoretical ideas and concepts in a

(Approved) 1
specific research domain.

4 To become aware that most of the time there are conflicting theories that even sometimes contradict each other.

5 To evaluate to what degree a theoretical model or framework is supported by empirical data.

6 To become aware that empirical research never provides conclusive evidence for a specific theoretical model.

7 To realize that empirical research is embedded in a specific historical, cultural and personal context which determines the empirical question and the way it is investigated.

8 To realize that published empirical work is the product of a time consuming work process.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment.

Conditions for exam contract
Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted.

Teaching methods
Self-reliant study activities, lecture: response lecture.

Extra information on the teaching methods
The lecture series consists of presentations by external speakers that are followed by extensive discussion. Students have to prepare the lectures by reading research articles and preparing questions. Furthermore, students have to prepare presentations on selected topics. About 18 hours are devoted to external lectures and about 12 hours to student presentations.

Learning materials and price
Background literature will be distributed a few weeks before each lecture through Minerva. No book purchase will be necessary.

References

Course content-related study coaching
Interactive support.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation.

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination with open questions.

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination with open questions.

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form.

Extra information on the examination methods
Written exam in which knowledge and understanding of the course material is evaluated.

Calculation of the examination mark
The examination mark is 100 % based on the final exam outcome.