Cognitive Psychology II (H002136)

Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Study time</th>
<th>Contact hrs</th>
<th>Study activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (semester 2)</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>180 h</td>
<td>30.0 h</td>
<td>self-reliant study activities, lecture: response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

Brass, Marcel
PP02 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>crds</th>
<th>offering</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Psychology (main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange Programme in Psychology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 psychology 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
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

(Approved)