Junior Colloquium in Cognitive Science
CGSC 395
Spring 2016

Instructor: Mark Sheskin
E-mail: mark.sheskin@yale.edu
Time/Location: Wednesdays, 2:30-4:20; Location WTS A46 (60 Sachem Street)
Office Hours: Thursdays 1-2PM; SSS 205 G (inside "Panda Lab")
Course Website: on classesv2

Overview

This course is designed for juniors in Cognitive Science. The purposes include (a) learning about a cross-section of cognitive science research directly from professors engaged in the research, (b) having the opportunity to engage in a "lab meeting" setting with the professors and your peers, and (c) solidifying plans for your senior thesis.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

(1) Forty-eight hours prior to each meeting of the course, you should submit two reading responses that are each approximately 200 words. One of these should raise a small number of criticism or concerns about the reading(s) for the upcoming meeting. The second response should focus on the previous week, and should reference the response submitted for that week and the discussion during that week. How has your understanding of the material changed following discussion with the professor and your peers? On the course website, you can find an example for each of the reading response types, as well as instructions for how to submit your responses. These reading responses will account for 40% of the final grade.

(2) Class participation will account for 40% of the final grade. In previous semesters, laptops have been prohibited out of respect for guest speakers and to facilitate group discussion. Although I will not be implementing a strict laptop ban (e.g., you might feel very attached to taking notes electronically), if you do use your laptop, your default should be to only look at your screen when absolutely necessary.

(3) At the end of the semester, you will submit a short research proposal (2-3 pages) about a topic you would like to study and a professor you might contact about it. Alternatively, if you have already started a project that might turn into your senior thesis, your short paper will provide a description of the project and your current progress with it. This paper will account for 20% of the final grade.

Statement on Academic Integrity

Please do not violate academic integrity during this course. Most notably, do not plagiarize. As defined in the Yale College Undergraduate Regulations (1), "Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work, words, or ideas as if they were one's own." There are many reasons to avoid

plagiarism. Two of them highlighted in materials from the Yale College Writing Center (2) are that plagiarism is a "detriment to your intellectual and moral development" and that "Yale punishes academic dishonesty severely." The Yale Writing Center has many resources you can consult to learn how to use sources properly and avoid plagiarism (3). Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss any of this information in more detail.

(1) http://yalecollege.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/URegs_14-15.pdf
(2) http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-faculty/addressing-plagiarism/sample-plagiarism-warnings
(3) http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students/using-sources

Calendar

January 20 - Class Introduction
January 27 – Discuss previous senior theses
February 3 – Brian Scassellati (Computer Science)
February 10 – Laurie Santos (Psychology)
February 17 – Josh Knobe (Philosophy)
February 24 – David Rand (Psychology)
March 2 - Discussion of short research proposals
March 9 – Henry Cowles (History)
March 16 - SPRING BREAK
March 23 - SPRING BREAK
March 30 – Dan Kahan (Law)
April 6 – Daeyeol Lee (Medicine)
April 13 – Yarrow Dunham (Psychology)
April 20 - Maria Pinango (Linguistics)
April 27 – Karen Wynn (Psychology)