

Senior Colloquium in Cognitive Science

CGSC 491

Spring 2016

Instructor: Mark Sheskin
E-mail: mark.sheskin@yale.edu
Time/Location: Thursdays, 2:30-4:20; Location WLH 011 (100 Wall St)
Office Hours: Thursdays 1-2PM; SSS 205 G (inside “Panda Lab”)
Course Website: on classesv2

Overview

This course is designed for majors in Cognitive Science as they complete their senior projects. The purposes include (a) helping students write the thesis by providing piecemeal due dates, (b) learning about and engaging in the peer review process, and (c) learning about other students’ research through presentations and peer review.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Each student will give a presentation once during the semester, consisting of approximately 30 minutes of content plus 15 minutes for discussion afterwards. Students who present earlier in the semester will be expected to have more preliminary progress towards their projects compared to those who present later in the semester. The nature of the feedback will also likely change during the semester, but the expectation is that valuable discussion and feedback can be gained at any time throughout the semester.

Each student will also engage in a peer review process with several other students: each student will peer review a thesis draft from three other students. Each student will also receive at least three peer reviews (the number may be more than 3, since I plan to peer review some and to recruit additional peer reviewers from outside the course). In response to the anonymous peer reviews, each student will revise their thesis and produce a cover letter detailing the changes. Samples of peer reviews and cover letters will be provided.

Your grade in this course will be determined largely by the final thesis you produce, which is evaluated by two professors. However, this final grade can be modified (either up or down) based on attendance and performance in the course. Typically, the variability from course performance will modify grades by no more than one or two steps (e.g., a grade of B from the readers of your senior thesis would typically result in a grade of B in the course, and would almost always lead to a grade between C+ and A-).

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

- Note due dates on 4 February, 3 March, 31 March, 14 April, and 22 April. (Note that the cover letter is due before the final essay. This allows you time to plan which changes you want to make to the thesis before you spend the time to finalize them.)
- All 9 dates between 4 February and 21 April (end dates inclusive, but excluding 7 April) will have student presentations.

21 January – Introduction, fill out thesis and presentation survey

28 January – Discuss sample peer reviews and previous essays

4 February – One page summary to advisor and msheskin+cgsc491@gmail.com

11 February

18 February

25 February

3 March – Thesis draft due to advisor and msheskin+cgsc491@gmail.com

10 March

SPRING BREAK

31 March – Peer reviews due to msheskin+cgsc491@gmail.com

7 April – Work on revising paper and cover letter (no class)

14 April – Cover letter due to msheskin+cgsc491@gmail.com

21 April

***22 April – Final essay due** (to advisor, dropbox, and msheskin+cgsc491@gmail.com)

28 April – Celebration party