

Cognitive Psychology III (H002136)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 6.0 Study time 180 h Contact hrs 30.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)	English	self-reliant study activities	0.0 h
		lecture: response lecture	30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Brass, Marcel	PP02	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
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

Cognitieve 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

- 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