

**Introduction to Cognitive Science
Summer 2009**

Lectures: Tue, Thu 1-3:05 Franz 3534

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Text: Osherson et al. (1995). An Invitation to Cognitive Science.

Second Edition. MIT Press, Volume 3.

Readings from volume 1 & 2 available from store room on a-level old Franz hall across from the copiers. **Cost is EXACTLY \$5 in CASH – NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Warning: The topic is *hard*. The text is *hard*. The material in this class is abstract, and is probably very different from the kind of stuff you're used to thinking about. Leave yourself time to read, and time to understand the material in this class.

Grading: Two components will go into your final grade:

40%: Mid-term Exam (Thu 7/9)

60%: Cumulative Final Exam (Thu 7/30)

Because the material is difficult, exams (and reviews) will be given more often to help keep students on track. **Generally, no make-up exams will be given.** In EXTREME cases, contact me to make arrangements. Make-up exams *will be harder* than the original exams.

Exams will be short-answer, short-essay, fill-in-the-blank and maybe a few multiple-choice.

Grading will be curved IF curving helps.

Ex: if mean is 60% and you get 60%, then you would get a C+/B-.

Ex: if mean is 91% and you get 91%, then you still get an A-.

Mean is C+/B- (may be adjusted upward if students perform well)

I would be perfectly happy to give all A's if everyone does extremely well – but that typically does not happen.

Web site: The handouts for the lecture will be posted on the web site before midnight the day before the lecture (e.g., by Monday night at midnight for Tuesday). Print them off and bring them to lecture.

Announcements for the course and grades will be posted on the announcement page.

You can post questions on the discussion board and they will be answered in a reasonable time.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
23-Jun	Mind: Defining Cognitive Science & History of Cognitive Science, Real Brains & Artificial Brains,	
25-Jun	Mind: Turing test, Symbolic & Connectionist Models	Vol 3, 11-11.2 (377-395) and 11.6 (416-421)
30-Jun	Consciousness & Intentionality. Vision: Illusions and their significance, Biology & Low Level Vision	Vol 2, 5-5.4 (167-184)
2-Jul	Vision: Objects & Mental Imagery	Vol 2, Ch.4 (121-165) Vol 2, 3-3.5 (101-114), Vol 2, 5.5 (184-196), Vol 2, Ch. 7 (267-296)
7-Jul	Midterm 1 review	
9-Jul	** Mid term Exam #1 (40%)	
14-Jul	Cognitive Neuroscience	
16-Jul	Memory: Overview & brain systems, STM, Working memory, LTM, Concepts & Categories, Procedural Memory & Skills (NOTE MEETING IN A-279)	Vol 3, Ch. 7 (215-260), Vol 3, Ch. 1 (3-30)
21-Jul	Thinking	Vol 3, Ch. 3 (77-98) Vol 3, Ch. 6.4 (193-197), 9-9.3 (297-314) , Vol 3, Ch. 8 (267-293)
23-Jul	Computational models of motion perception (Alan Lee)	
28-Jul	Language acquisition & final review	Vol 1, Ch. 6.4-6.8 (146-165)
30-Jul	** Mid term Exam #2 (cumulative with focus on new material)** (60%)	