



Philosophy 447 / Psychology 447 / Philosophy 673

Seminar in Cognitive Science, Fall, 2015: Cognition and Social Change

Professor: [Paul Thagard](#)

Office hours (HH368): MW 10-11 and by appointment.

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Web page: <http://cogsci.uwaterloo.ca/courses/phil-psych447+673.15fall.html>

Time: T 8:30-11:20 , HH 138. To improve learning, please turn off all electronic devices such as phones, computers, and transcranial magnetic stimulators. See [blog](#) for reasons.

Student Presentation Schedule (updated Nov. 24):

Makeups, Dec. 1, 8:40: Akanksha, Timothy

Group 3 (culture): Dec. 1: Mujtaba, Zenusha, Vanessa, Hanh, Louise, Ross

Group 4 (technology): Dec. 1: Andrew, Xiangbo, Morvika, Thenoosiya, Hailey, Erica

If you need use Powerpoint, email me a file by 8:00 a.m. the day of your presentation.

Textbook: P. Thagard, *Mind-Society: From Brains to Social Science*, [download from here](#). Now includes [chapter 8](#) and [chapter 9](#).

Assignments: Marks will be based on:

- 4 [assignments](#), 1 page each, due in class, **Sept. 29, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10**, each worth 10%.
- Essay, 15 pages, due **Dec. 8**, worth 50% of the final mark, including the class presentation. [NEW: ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS](#).
- Commentary, maximum 150 words, handed in at the beginning of classes 2-10. 10% (you can miss 1 without penalty).
- Assignments and exams must be completed on schedule except for documented cases of serious medical problems or family emergencies. Travel plans and workload from other courses are not legitimate excuses

Description: Cognitive science is the interdisciplinary study of mind and intelligence, operating at the intersection of psychology, philosophy, computer science, linguistics, anthropology, and neuroscience.

This course will discuss the relevance of new findings in cognitive science for understanding and promoting social change. Topics will include personal relationships, prejudice, political ideology, economic crashes, religion, and war.

Readings:

Week	Dates	Topic	<i>Mind-Society, ch.</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
1	Sept. 15	Introduction		

2	Sept. 22	Social change	1	de la Sablonnière
3	Sept. 29	Cognitive mechanisms	2	Langley
4	Oct. 6	Social mechanisms	3	Hedstrom
5	Oct. 13	Romantic relationships	4	Murray
6	Oct. 20	Prejudice	5	Amodio
7	Oct. 27	Ideology	6	Jost
8	Nov. 3	Economic booms and crashes	7	Samson
9	Nov. 10	Religion	8	Cohen
10	Nov. 17	War	9	Sasley
11	Nov. 24	Student presentations		
12	Dec. 1	Student presentations		

For undergraduates, this class is a core course for the [Cognitive Science Minor](#).

For graduate students, this can count toward the [Graduate Diploma in Cognitive Science](#).

[Cognitive Science Glossary](#)

[Cognitive Science Resources](#)

Weekly notes

[Week 1: Introduction](#)

[Week 2: Social Change](#)

[Week 3: Cognitive mechanisms](#)

[Week 4: Social mechanisms](#)

[Week 5: Romantic relationships](#)

[Week 6: Prejudice](#)

[Week 7: Ideology](#)

[Week 8: Economic crashes](#)

[Week 9: Religion](#)

[Week 10: War](#)

From the Faculty of Arts:

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to “group work” and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.”

[Faculty of Arts information on plagiarism and other offences.](#)

[Computational Epistemology Laboratory.](#)

[Paul Thagard](#)

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