COGNITIVE SCIENCE (CGSC)

CGSC 110a / PSYC 130a, Introduction to Cognitive Science  
Brian Scholl
An introduction to the interdisciplinary study of how the mind works. Discussion of tools, theories, and assumptions from psychology, computer science, neuroscience, linguistics, and philosophy.  
SO

CGSC 186b / PHIL 113b / RLST 186b / SAST 270b, Fear, Suffering, Anger, Love: Buddhist Philosophy of Mind  
Sonam Kachru
This course introduces students to classical Indian Buddhist philosophy of mind and the reasons why Buddhists pursued it—"the reinvention of ourselves," or the pursuit of the transformation of persons from unhealthy to healthy ways of being minded. Class materials are drawn from categories and concerns found in theoretical and practical manuals from roughly the first to the fifth centuries C.E., but the topics are salient, including: What is the difference between mind and consciousness? Is there an unconscious? How does one model mental actions, such as attention or categorization? Are our minds structured by primal fear? Or anger? Do we ever have reason to be angry? What is cognitive control? Why do minds wander? Should mental dynamics be merely observed or attenuated or sculpted in some other way? What, if anything, is peace of mind?  
HU

CGSC 276a / PHIL 276a, Metaphysics  
Laurie Paul
Examination of some fundamental aspects of reality. Topics include time, persistence, modality, causation, and existence.  
HU  0 Course cr

CGSC 277b / AFAM 198b / EDST 177b / EP&E 494b / PHIL 177b, Propaganda, Ideology, and Democracy  
Jason Stanley
Historical, philosophical, psychological, and linguistic introduction to the issues and challenges that propaganda raises for liberal democracy. How propaganda can work to undermine democracy; ways in which schools and the press are implicated; the use of propaganda by social movements to address democracy’s deficiencies; the legitimacy of propaganda in cases of political crisis.  
HU  0 Course cr

CGSC 282a / PHIL 182a / PSYC 182a, Perspectives on Human Nature  
Joshua Knobe
Comparison of philosophical and psychological perspectives on human nature. Nietzsche on morality, paired with contemporary work on the psychology of moral judgment; Marx on religion, paired with systematic research on the science of religious belief; Schopenhauer paired with social psychology on happiness.  
HU  0 Course cr

CGSC 315a / PSYC 315a, The Modern Unconscious  
John Bargh
The notion of the unconscious mind traced from the early 1800s through Freud to present-day cognitive science, with a focus on the past thirty years. The power and function of the unconscious as a pervasive part of normal everyday human functioning. Readings from philosophy of mind and evolutionary biology.  
SO

* CGSC 395a / PHIL 395a, Junior Colloquium in Cognitive Science  
Isaac Davis
Survey of contemporary issues and current research in cognitive science. By the end of the term, students select a research topic for the senior essay. Enrollment limited to Cognitive Science majors.  
½ Course cr
Introduction to the emerging field of moral cognition. Focus on questions about the philosophical significance of psychological findings. Topics include the role of emotion in moral judgment; the significance of character traits in virtue ethics and personality psychology; the reliability of intuitions and the psychological processes that underlie them.  HU

* CGSC 439a / PSYC 439a, The Psychology of Social Construction  Jennifer Richeson
We live in a world replete with “forgeries that become genuine”: pieces of paper that become money, words that become promises, lines in the sand that become borders. Nearly every aspect of our lives is shaped and constrained by these kinds of socially constructed entities, things as real as mountains but far more mysterious. How do such entities come to be, and how do (and how should) we understand them? How are they made and how can they be contested when they go astray? Answering these questions requires ranging across diverse literatures beginning with psychology but including philosophy, anthropology, economics, and game theory. Prerequisite: PSYC 110 or CGSC 110.  SO

* CGSC 471a, Directed Research in Cognitive Science  Joshua Knobe
Research projects for qualified students. The student must be supervised by a member of the Cognitive Science faculty, who sets the requirements and directs the research. To register, a student must submit a written plan of study to the director of undergraduate studies and the faculty supervisor. The normal minimum requirement is a written report of the completed research, but individual faculty members may set alternative equivalent requirements. Only one term may be offered toward the major, with permission of the director of undergraduate studies; two terms may be offered toward the bachelor’s degree.

* CGSC 473a, Directed Reading in Cognitive Science  Joshua Knobe
Individual study for qualified students who wish to investigate an area of cognitive science not covered in regular courses. The student must be supervised by a member of the Cognitive Science faculty, who sets the requirements and meets regularly with the student. To register, a student must submit a written plan of study to the director of undergraduate studies and the faculty supervisor. The normal minimum requirement is a term paper, but individual faculty members may set alternative equivalent requirements. Only one term may be offered toward the major, with permission of the director of undergraduate studies; two terms may be offered toward the bachelor’s degree.