You are logged in as Lee Spector (Logout)

Cognitive Science Fiction

Home › My courses › CS-104T-1_2010F   [Turn editing on]

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor Info:	**Lee Spector**	
	lspector@hampshire.edu	
	Office Extension:	x5352
	Office Hours:	Regular office hours: Mondays 2:30–4:00, Wednesdays 10:30–12:00; Thursdays 2:00–3:30. Other times can be set up by arrangement (in person or via email). Sign up for regular office hours and advising day meetings on Hampedia here.

TA Info:	**Courtney Dozetos**	
	cgd07@hampshire.edu	
	Charles Pope	
	cmp07@hampshire.edu	
	Office Extension:	x5054
	Sarah Gordon	
	smg09@hampshire.edu	
	Office Extension:	x4302

Term:	2010F

Meeting Info:	**Monday**	10:30 AM – 11:50 AM Adele Simmons Hall (ASH) 111
	Wednesday	10:30 AM – 11:50 AM Adele Simmons Hall (ASH) 111
	Monday	07:00 PM – 09:00 PM Adele Simmons Hall (ASH) 112

Description:	Can androids fall in love? Could a planet have a mind of its own? How might we communicate with alien life forms? Will it ever be possible for two people to "swap minds"? How about a person and a robot? And what would it feel like to engage in a Vulcan "mind meld"? Cognitive science research can shed light on many of these questions, with results that are often as strange and as wonderful as the inventions of science fiction authors. In this course we will read and view science fiction while simultaneously reading current scientific literature on the mind, the brain, and intelligent machines. The science fiction will provide a framework for our discussions, but the real goal of the course is to provide a tour of issues in cognitive science that will prepare students for more advanced cognitive science courses. PRS, QUA, REA

Course Objectives:	

LATEST NEWS

Add a new topic...

(No news has been posted yet)

QUICKMAIL

Compose New Email
Signatures
View Drafts
View History
Alternate Emails
Configuration

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are no upcoming events

Go to calendar...
New event...

RECENT ACTIVITY

Activity since Sunday, 19 August 2012, 12:15 PM
Full report of recent activity...

Nothing new since your last login

LIBRARY INFORMATION

Library Homepage

NAVIGATION

SETTINGS

Course administration
Turn editing on
Edit settings
Users
Filters
Grades
Backup
Restore
Import
Reset
Question bank
Legacy course files

Switch role to...

My profile settings

- To gain familiarity with a range of current topics, issues, and approaches in cognitive science.
- To learn to ask questions about the nature of the mind, understanding that one is always doing this *with* a mind!
- To develop skill in reading primary scientific research literature.
- To develop skill connecting scientific issues to life experience and literature.
- To develop improved writing skills.

Evaluation Criteria:	Each student will be evaluated on the basis of: 1. Mandatory participation in class discussions. See below for details. 2. Three 5–8–page papers, due September 27, October 20, and November 15. See below for details. 3. A 10–12 page paper, which may be a revision/expansion of an earlier paper, due at the end of the semester.
Additional Info:	**Materials** - *The Futurological Congress,* by Stanislaw Lem - *Blindsight,* by Peter Watts - additional text, audio, and video available from the course web site or presented in evening screenings. **Schedule** See detailed schedule here: http://hampshire.edu/lspector/courses/CS104TF10-schedule.html. **Discussions** There will be no lectures in this class. All class time, aside from screening time, will be devoted to discussion. You **must** come prepared to discuss the readings/screenings to **every** discussion session. How to prepare for a discussion session: 1. Do **all** of the reading and attend the screenings. 2. Take notes **while** reading/viewing, including science–related issues to raise in discussion. I will expect each student to have several items to discuss, **on paper** (though you don't have to turn it in), each day. **Papers** Each paper should make and defend a significant scientific/philosophical point with respect to an issue discussed in class. It may do so explicitly, in expository form, or it may do so implicitly, through a work of science fiction, or it may even do it in some other --- such as *describing* a plot for a work of science fiction --- but in any event the paper must clearly make and defend a significant scientific/philosophical point. It should also demonstrate engagement with the issues and materials covered in class. Expository papers should generally follow the following general form: 1. Introduce the issue and clearly state the point that you are making in the first paragraph. 2. Elaborate the issue and defend your position, possibly

drawing on examples from the fiction read/viewed for class
to provide illustrations.
3. Summarize your evidence and conclusions.

How to get an evaluation for this course

1. Do **all** of the reading, **always before** the day for which the
   reading is assigned.
2. Attend every class and screening and participate in most
   discussions.
3. Turn in all of the required work on time.

You should not expect to receive an evaluation unless you have met
these expectations, or unless the ways in which you fall short are: 1)
minor and/or unavoidable (e.g. because of illness), AND 2) well-
explained both when the lapses occur and in your final self
evaluation. If you are ever in doubt about your status in the class
vis-a-vis evaluation then come talk to me.

Course website: https://moodle.hampshire.edu/course/view.php?
id=1199

News forum
Division I Roadmap

Wednesday, 8 September (10:30AM - 11:50AM)
Beyond lies the wub

Monday, 13 September (10:30AM - 11:50AM)
Animal Consciousness

Monday, 13 September (07:00PM - 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 15 September (10:30AM - 11:50AM)
RadioLab: Who am I?

Monday, 20 September (10:30AM - 11:50AM)
First Person Experience of Body Transfer in Virtual Reality

Monday, 20 September (07:00PM - 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 22 September (10:30AM - 11:50AM)

Monday, 27 September (10:30AM - 11:50AM)
Radiolab: Memory and Forgetting

Monday, 27 September (07:00PM - 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 29 September (10:30AM - 11:50AM)
Islands of memory: Autobiographical remembering in amnestics

Monday, 4 October (10:30AM - 11:50AM)
Radiolab: Deception
IT Conversations: Dan Simons - The Invisible Gorilla

Monday, 4 October (07:00PM - 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 6 October (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
📕 The persistence of false beliefs

Monday, 11 October (10:30AM – 11:50AM)

Monday, 11 October (07:00PM – 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 13 October (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
🔊 All in the Mind: Brave New Mind: Smart drugs and the ethics of neuro–enhancement

Monday, 18 October (10:30AM – 11:50AM)

Monday, 18 October (07:00PM – 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 20 October (10:30AM – 11:50AM)

Monday, 25 October (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
📕 Computing Machinery and Intelligence (scan)

Monday, 25 October (07:00PM – 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 27 October (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
📕 Evolution of Artificial Intelligence

Monday, 1 November (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
📕 Minds, Brains, and Programs

Monday, 1 November (07:00PM – 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 3 November (10:30AM – 11:50AM)

Monday, 8 November (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
🔊 Radiolab: Emergence

Monday, 8 November (07:00PM – 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 10 November (10:30AM – 11:50AM)

Monday, 15 November (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
🔊 All in the Mind: Michael Gazzaniga: Split brains and other heady tales
🔊 All in the Mind: The Master & his Emissary – the divided brain and the reshaping of Western civilisation.

Monday, 15 November (07:00PM – 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 17 November (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
📕 The Role of Sleep in Memory Consolidation and Brain Plasticity: Dream or Reality?
📕 Sleep and Dream Patterns of Political Liberals and Conservatives"
🔊 All in the Mind: Dreams: the stuff memories are made of? (Part 2 of 2)

Monday, 22 November (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
🔊 Philosophy Bites: David Chalmers on the Singularity

🔊 IT Conversations: Ray Kurzweil – The Future is Near

Monday, 22 November (07:00PM – 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 24 November (10:30AM – 11:50AM)

Monday, 29 November (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
📄 Blindsight depends on the lateral geniculate nucleus

Monday, 29 November (07:00PM – 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 1 December (10:30AM – 11:50AM)

Monday, 6 December (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
📄 Talk of genetics and vice versa
📄 From Squeak to Syntax: Language's Incremental Evolution
🔊 Radiolab: Musical Language

Monday, 6 December (07:00PM – 09:00PM)

Wednesday, 8 December (10:30AM – 11:50AM)
Last class

ⓘ Moodle Docs for this page

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Home