

COG 250 INTRODUCTION TO COGNITIVE SCIENCE

**John Vervaeke University College F 307 Thursdays 10-12
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TERM 1

Ist class:

Introduction to cognitive science and the naturalistic imperative.

2nd class through 5th class. Introduction to psychology: categorization and concepts.

NO CLASS OCT 13TH THANKSGIVING.

Readings: Osherson and Smith 2nd edition, Chapter 1.

6th class **OCT. 20th TERM TEST. WORTH 10%**

TERM 1 TEST Short essay answer test on all material since beginning of term.

7th class Memory

NO CLASS NOV. 10TH FALL BREAK

Readings. Osherson and Smith 1st edition, Potter reading. In Laidlaw, copy also in CASA, both in UC.

8th class through 10th classes Problem Solving
Readings. Osherson and Smith 2nd edition, Chapter 8.

ESSAY DUE NOV. 24TH

**2000 words, scholarly, endnotes or footnotes, reference list, 6-10
reputable sources worth 15%**

11th and 12th classes Insight Read The Dynamic of Insight: Mathematical
Discovery as a Phase Transition by Stephen, Boncoddio, Magnuson and
Dixon in Memory and Cognition 2009, 37 (8) 1132-1149

END OF TERM BREAK

TERM 2

1st class 2nd class Insight and attention. Read Dynamics of
Representational Change: Entropy, Action, and Cognition by Stephen,
Dixon, and Isenhowar in the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human
Perception and Performance, 2009, vol. 35, no. 6, 1811-1832

3rd class

TERM 2 TEST Jan 19th. On everything since Term 1 test.

Short essay answers and one long essay answer. Worth 15%

4th and 5th classes Artificial Intelligence (GOFAI)

Readings: Haugeland Chapters 1-5 inclusive.

6th Class Connectionism and the Symbolist Connectionist Debate

FEB 16TH NO CLASS.

7th Class Connectionism, Symbolism and dynamical systems.

8th and 9th Classes Simulation as Explanation.

10th Class Computational Functionalism and Beyond

11th through 12th Classes Relevance, consciousness and content.

2nd TERM ESSAY DUE WEEK 12, March 23rd. Worth 25%

3000 words, scholarly, endnotes or footnotes, reference list, 6-10 reputable sources.

EVALUATION

1st Test 10 %, 1st Essay 15 %, 2nd Test 15%, Second Essay 25%, and Final exam 35.

LATENESS PENALTY IS 10% PER DAY (NOT JUST SCHOOL DAY)