

Degree programme	Type	Course
Philosophy	OP	3

Contact lecturer

Name : Olga Fernandez Prat

Email : olga.fernandez@uab.cat

Prerequisites

It is necessary to be able to read English.

Group languages

You can consult this information at the [end](#) of the document.

Objectives

The course aims to introduce the study of cognition and consciousness from an interdisciplinary perspective, analyzing the processes that enable us to perceive, interpret, and act upon the world. It also seeks to understand the role of the brain, emotions, attention, and inner language in the construction of the self and subjective experience. Finally, it explores the limits and diverse manifestations of cognition, both in humans and in other forms of life.

Learning outcomes

- CM31 (Apply critical and reflective thinking to address contemporary problems linked to the mind, artificial intelligence, and technoscience.) Apply critical and reflective thinking to address contemporary problems linked to the mind, artificial intelligence, and technoscience.
- CM32 (Adopt an ethical and responsible attitude in the analysis and discussion of cognitive and technological transformations in today's society in response to situations of discrimination based on gender, race or class, such as the digital divide.) Adopt an ethical and responsible attitude in the analysis and discussion of cognitive and technological transformations in today's society in response to situations of discrimination based on gender, race or class, such as the digital divide.
- CM33 (Integrate interdisciplinary approaches for understanding and dialogue in the face of philosophical, social and ethical implications of scientific and technological advances.) Integrate interdisciplinary approaches for understanding and dialogue in the face of philosophical, social and ethical implications of scientific and technological advances.
- CM39 (Assess the ethical challenges posed by artificial intelligence, including issues such as privacy, discrimination, and moral responsibility.) Assess the ethical challenges posed by artificial intelligence, including issues such as privacy, discrimination, and moral responsibility.
- KM35 (Identify the diversity of interdisciplinary approaches that integrate philosophy, neuroscience, technology, and social studies in the analysis of cognitive and technological processes.) Identify the diversity of interdisciplinary approaches that integrate philosophy, neuroscience, technology, and social studies in the analysis of cognitive and technological processes.
- KM36 (Recognise the epistemological, ontological and ethical foundations that underlie the development of cognitive sciences, artificial intelligence and technoscience.) Recognise the epistemological, ontological and ethical foundations that underlie the development of cognitive sciences, artificial intelligence and technoscience.

- KM37 (Explain the main contemporary philosophical theories and debates on the mind, cognition, consciousness, artificial intelligence and the relationships between science, technology and society.) Explain the main contemporary philosophical theories and debates on the mind, cognition, consciousness, artificial intelligence and the relationships between science, technology and society.
- KM48 (Identify the different political, health, environmental, identity, and global problems of the present based on readings of reference authors and case studies.) Identify the different political, health, environmental, identity, and global problems of the present based on readings of reference authors and case studies.
- SM36 (Critically analyse philosophical and scientific theories and models about mind, consciousness, artificial intelligence, and science and technology.) Critically analyse philosophical and scientific theories and models about mind, consciousness, artificial intelligence, and science and technology.
- SM37 (Develop rigorous philosophical arguments that integrate ethical, social, and epistemological perspectives around technological and scientific advances.) Develop rigorous philosophical arguments that integrate ethical, social, and epistemological perspectives around technological and scientific advances.
- SM38 (Communicate ideas related to the intersection of philosophy, science, and technology in academic and social contexts.) Communicate ideas related to the intersection of philosophy, science, and technology in academic and social contexts.

Contents

Block I. Foundations of Cognition

1. Introduction to Cognition
2. Perception: How Do We Construct Reality?
3. The Predictive Brain
4. Emotion and Cognition

Block II. From Cognition to Consciousness

1. Attention and Cognitive Control
2. Inner Dialogue
3. The Self and the Construction of Subjectivity
4. When the Self Fragments

Block III. The Limits of the Mind

1. Animal Cognition
2. Plant Cognition

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Tutorials	23	0.92	CM32, CM33, SM37, SM38
Reading of required texts	76	3.04	CM31, CM33, CM39, KM35, KM36
Theoretical classes	26	1.04	CM31, CM32, CM33, CM39, KM35, KM36, KM37
Seminars	21	0.84	CM31, CM32, CM33, CM39, KM35, KM36, KM37, KM48, SM36, SM37,

The guided activities follow a problem-based learning methodology focused on the formulation and resolution of problems. These activities are mainly of two types:

- a) Theoretical presentations of the subject matter with discussion of related problems led by the lecturer.
- b) In-class argumentative practice based on the assigned readings. Students are required to read texts that will be discussed collectively in order to identify the main ideas and the internal structure of the text. Class participation will be encouraged so that students can develop the assigned competencies.

Theoretical and practical classes will alternate throughout the course.

For proper follow-up of the course, regular class attendance and active participation are essential. In addition, students will be expected to complete some individual reading of key texts.

The Virtual Campus will be used to share course materials.

Tutorials will mainly be devoted to resolving doubts.

In order to help students plan the course effectively, on the first day of class the lecturer will upload to the Virtual Campus a day-by-day course schedule and will also include the exam dates in the calendar.

Note: 15 minutes of one class, within the schedule established by the centre/degree programme, will be reserved for students to complete surveys evaluating teaching performance and the course.

Annotation: within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous assessment activities

Title	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Leading a seminar	25%	1.5	0.06	CM31, CM32, CM33, CM39, KM35, KM36, KM37, KM48, SM36, SM37, SM38
Critical commentary on a reading	25%	1	0.04	CM31, CM33, KM35, KM36, KM37, KM48, SM36, SM37, SM38
Synthesis exam	50%	1.5	0.06	CM31, CM32, CM33, CM39, KM35, KM36, KM37, KM48, SM36, SM37, SM38

Continuous assessment

Leading a seminar (25%)

Students, working in small groups, prepare and lead a seminar session based on a text or topic from the course. They are expected to present the key points, formulate discussion questions, and moderate the discussion with the rest of the group, encouraging participation and critical analysis.

Critical commentary on a reading (25%)

This consists of a text commentary or a short-answer exam based on a reading. Students must summarize the main arguments, assess their strength, and identify possible limitations or conceptual implications.

Final exam (50%)

Individual written test that assesses the overall understanding of the course content. It includes concept definitions, essay questions and/or case analysis, with the aim of evaluating the ability to integrate and relate the different thematic blocks.

It is possible that the Department of Philosophy will establish (as was done during the first semester) a period of concentrated assessment activities. The teaching staff will indicate whether such a period applies or what the exam dates are at the beginning of each course.

Exam dates will be communicated in the Moodle calendar well in advance.

Students who, for ANY reason, are unable to attend the scheduled assessments during the course will take the resit exam directly. Resit exams take place between 13 January 2027 and 26 January 2027. The dates are assigned by Academic Administration. No alternative resit dates will be available.

At the time of each assessment activity, the lecturer will inform students (via Moodle) about the procedure and the date for grade review.

Single assessment: This course does not offer a single-assessment option.

Resit: The seminar leading activity is not eligible for resit.

Non-assessable: Students will receive a "Not assessable" grade if they have submitted no more than one third of the assessment activities.

NOTES

- Erasmus students requesting to reschedule an exam must provide the lecturer with a written document from their home university justifying the request.

- Spelling and grammar will be assessed. Repeated mistakes (minimum four) will result in a 10% penalty on the grade of the assessment.

- If a student commits any irregularity that may lead to a significant change in the grade of an assessment task, that task will be graded with a 0, regardless of any disciplinary procedure that may be initiated. If multiple irregularities occur in the same course, the final grade for the course will be 0.

- The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is not permitted in any phase of this course. Any work that includes AI-generated content will be considered academic dishonesty and will result in a 0 for the activity, with no possibility of resit, or more severe sanctions in serious cases.

In those situations where, in accordance with Article 264 of the Academic Regulations and the supporting documentation that justifies them, assessment activities scheduled for the first assessment period must be rescheduled, such activities shall be rescheduled and held on the same date as the assessment activity corresponding to the second assessment period of the course or, where applicable, during the resit assessment period.

If the circumstance affects an assessment activity scheduled for the second assessment period, the activity shall be rescheduled to the date established for the resit assessment period, without affecting the resit process established for the course.

In all cases, taking into account the specific circumstances, the Degree Coordination, in agreement with the Course Coordination, may determine an alternative date if deemed appropriate.

Bibliography

Damasio, Antonio. 1999. *The Feeling of What Happens: Body and Emotion in the Making of Consciousness*. San Diego: Harcourt.

Dennett, Daniel Clement. 1991. *Consciousness Explained*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.

Eysenck, Michael William, i Mark Thomas Keane. 2020. *Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind*. 8a ed. Londres: Routledge.

Eysenck, Michael William, i Mark Thomas Keane. 2020. *Cognitive Psychology: A Student's Handbook*. 8a ed. Londres: Routledge.

Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2016. *Other Minds: The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness*. Nova York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Hohwy, Jakob. 2013. *The Predictive Mind*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Solms, Mark. 2021. *The Hidden Spring: A Journey to the Source of Consciousness*. Nova York: W. W. Norton.

Software

There are none.

Course groups and languages

The information provided is provisional until November 30. After this date, you will be able to consult the language of each group through this [link](#). To access the information, you will need to enter the course CODE

Type of teaching	Group	Language	Semester	Shift
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed