

HUM-316

**Cognitive psychology B**

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Humanities and Social Sciences	BA5	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	2
Session	Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	During the semester
Workload	60h
Weeks	14
<b>Hours</b>	<b>2 weekly</b>
Courses	2 weekly
<b>Number of positions</b>	<b>40</b>

**Remark**

Cognitive Psychology in the "Nature - Nurture" Debate

**Summary**

Are our cognitive functions (e.g. perception, language) due to nature or nurture? While extreme positions are today less prevalent, the debate is ongoing. We will discuss empirical findings supporting either position, inviting students to critically assess and integrate various positions.

**Content**

This course will extend (but not depend) on a course in year BA3, in which basic knowledge on cognitive psychology was introduced (HUM-213). We will introduce (or remind) students of the basic fields in cognitive psychology and how the nature (biological innateness) vs nurture (social experience) debate has evolved in theoretical viewpoints throughout history. We suggest to treat relevant cognitive domains such as intelligence, learning and memory, language, emotion, temperament. We will present concepts and empirical, mostly experimental, studies that support either perspective in order to compare these viewpoints, discuss, integrate, and synthesize conflicting findings.

**Keywords**

cognition, nature, nurture, development, methods, history, theory, intelligence, learning, memory, language, emotion, temperament

**Learning Prerequisites****Recommended courses**

HUM - 213: Psychologie cognitive A, but not necessary

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Search for relevant literature
- Describe previous research and their weaknesses and strengths
- Discuss research articles within a larger context
- Demonstrate the ability to integrate different, or even opposing viewpoints
- Formulate your reasoning in oral and written form
- Justify a constructive synthesis of the treated literature

**Transversal skills**

- Assess progress against the plan, and adapt the plan as appropriate.
- Plan and carry out activities in a way which makes optimal use of available time and other resources.
- Assess one's own level of skill acquisition, and plan their on-going learning goals.
- Take feedback (critique) and respond in an appropriate manner.
- Access and evaluate appropriate sources of information.
- Summarize an article or a technical report.
- Give feedback (critique) in an appropriate fashion.
- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
- Make an oral presentation.

### Teaching methods

Course of up to 70-80 minutes

Followed by a discussion period in which the lecturers are present to support students

- in their preparation of the oral presentation
- in their preparation of the course summary
- in their literature search

### Expected student activities

- Present and discuss your analysis of the contradicting literature
- Write summaries (max. 1 page each) of presentations given by your peers.
- Contribute constructively to the discussion and outcome of the other presenters.

### Assessment methods

- Evaluation of the oral presentation
- Evaluation of summaries on oral presentations.

### Supervision

Office hours	No
Assistants	Yes
Forum	No
Others	Students can ask questions and obtain further information before and after lecture times. In case of particular questions, additional office time can be arranged.

### Resources

#### Bibliography

to be provided in the course.

#### Notes/Handbook

to be provided on the lecture slides being made available on moodle.

#### Videos

- <http://to be provided on moodle>