



**UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX  
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**Topics in Cognitive Neuroscience  
Masters: 901C8  
15 Credits  
Autumn Term 2017**

**Module Convenor: Dr Daniel Campbell-Meiklejohn**

**NOTE: Most of the questions you need answers to about this module are in this document. Please read it fully and carefully before your first seminar.**

NOTE: This document concerns the structure and content of the module. If you have questions about procedures, please consult the School of Psychology Office in Pev1 2A13 or via [psychology@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:psychology@sussex.ac.uk)

Reading lists and lecture descriptions will be available on Study Direct

## MODULE INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

### Module Structure, Aims and Objectives

The module aims to introduce students to research methods and topics in cognitive neuroscience. Following a discussion of the techniques, remaining lectures will follow a series of topics of cognitive neuroscience, taught by experts in the field. The final two lectures will be student led presentations.

### Module Learning Outcomes.

By the end of the module, a successful student should be able to:

- Critically evaluate theories/models within cognitive neuroscience
- Describe and explain how the methods of cognitive neuroscience can be used to uncover the neural basis of cognitive functions in humans.
- Explain how the methods of cognitive neuroscience can be applied to understand key aspects of the mind, and vice versa.

### Module Contact Information

Convenor:	Dr. Daniel Campbell-Meiklejohn
Location:	Pevensey 2 4B12
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Office Hours	MON 1:30 to 3:30

### Learning

*The syllabus details for the module are available via links on the Psychology teaching web pages and via Sussex Direct.*

- **Lectures** There will be 10 taught lectures, each 2 hours long (with a short break in the middle). Each will be on a different topic of cognitive neuroscience. In many, there will be an opportunity actively participate. The final 2 lectures will be student led presentations. Every student is expected to attend these. Your enjoyment and success in this course will be directly proportional to your participation effort and enthusiasm. To avoid disruption to the majority, please try to arrive at least 5 minutes before the start time of the lecture (see lecture attendance etiquette in Psychology course handbook).

It is **crucial** for you to understand that formal examination on this module will be based on lectures **and** independent study. The lectures do not attempt to cover all the relevant material. Any attempt to rely solely on learning material presented in lectures and seminars will severely restrict your ability to do well during formal assessment of this module.

- **Independent study.** It is up to you to make use of all the facilities provided to you by the university. They are there to help you learn. Sussex is also home to over 50 faculty in fields of psychology and neuroscience. It is up to you to seek out and talk to faculty and students that are studying topics that interest you. You need to become familiar with the material you are guided towards, but you also need to learn to apply it to new domains, compare and contrast across topics, evaluate and critique the field.
- **TiCN Journal Club.** The essentials to a successful research career include the network you forge, interest and enjoyment in science, clarity of presentation and the ability to keep on top of scientific literature. A journal club is a great way to do this. I will divide the students into two groups. Each group will meet weekly outside of lectures to discuss papers. Each weekly leading student will select a paper for the following week, which everyone will read and be ready to discuss. The leading student for that week will present for 15 minutes, followed by discussion. This will last up to one hour each week. I will attend the first club and then it will be up to the group to self-organize (another very important skill).
- **MSc Methods Workshops** we will endeavour to provide many opportunities for direct contact with cognitive neuroscience methodology. The simplest way to gain exposure to methods is to participate in each other's research projects.
- **Office Hours** Your module convenor will hold an office hour each week. Please see the Psychology Office for when and where this will be held. Students may use these office hours (without appointment) to discuss or ask about anything\_module-related.
- **Study Direct.** This is your main resource for course material. You may find lecture slides, updated reading lists and discussions here. You are encouraged to access module materials and use the forum in Study Direct. This is the best way to share ideas amongst your fellow students and ask questions about the module. Module convenors and tutors would prefer to receive queries via the Study Direct module forum than by email.

## Books and Reading

Each lecture will have recommended reading. Find this on *Study Direct*.

Those new to cognitive neuroscience will find the following publication helpful, in addition to recommended reading.

Ward, J. (2010): *The Student's Guide to Cognitive Neuroscience (Second Edition)*. Hove. Psychology Press.

Reading lists and textbooks are only a starting point to orient yourself to particular fields of interest. Pursue other relevant material.

## Assessment

The module will be assessed by essay and a Presentation (mini-lecture).

Look at Study Direct for an in depth discussion of your assessments. Essay is worth 80% of your grade for the module.

Presentations (worth 20%) can be chosen from the list provided on Study Direct under Weeks 11 and 12. To benefit the other students as much as possible, only one group can present any one topic.

Submission deadlines will be available on your assessment timetable and in Sussex Direct.

Information on the following can be found at the link below:

- Submitting your work
- Missing a deadline
- Late penalties
- Plagiarism and Collusion - Academic Misconduct
- Exceptional circumstances
- Exams
- Help with managing your studies and competing your work
- Assessment Criteria

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/internal/students/examinationsandassessment>

## Student Feedback

We want the module to be excellent year on year. So all feedback is gratefully received. You will be able to provide feedback on the module, details will be given during the module. You may also comment on the module at any time, either to convenors or tutors, and you may do this directly or via some intermediary (e.g. a student representative).

## Lecture Overview

Fridays from 13:00 to 15:00 Location A05 ARTS A

Wk 1 Sep 29th	Dan CM (Methods and Assessment Overview)
Wk 2 Oct 6th	Sarah Garfinkel (Emotion and Embodied Cognition)
Wk 3 Oct 13th	Sophie Forster (Attention)
Wk 4 Oct 20th	Chris Bird (Memory)
Wk 5 Oct 27th	Daniel CM (Reward and Decision Making)
Wk 6 Nov 3rd	Jenny Rusted (Dementia)
Wk 7 Nov 10th	Ben Dyson (ERPs)
Wk 8 Nov 17th	Sarah King (Animal Models and Behavioural Genetics)
Wk 9 Nov 24th	Natasha Sigala (Prefrontal Cortex)
Wk 10 Dec 1st	Jenny Bosten (Vision and Perception)
Wk 11 and 12	Daniel CM (Student Led Seminars)