



COGS702

Advanced Principles of Cognitive Science: Attention and Action

S1 Day 2019

Department of Cognitive Science

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6
<u>Graduate Capabilities</u>	7
<u>Optimizing Learning</u>	10

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Matthew Finkbeiner matthew.finkbeiner@mq.edu.au
Credit points 4
Prerequisites Admission to MRes
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit forms part of a four-unit core sequence covering a range of foundational and cutting-edge research topics in cognitive science, with an emphasis on active research programs at MQ. This team-taught unit is made up of a selection of 3-4 topic modules, led by experts specialising in these fields. Topics to be covered may include but are not limited to: the varieties of attention (eg, spatial attention, temporal attention, object attention, and attentional control); the relationship between attention and conscious awareness; brain mechanisms of attention and multisensory integration; motor planning and sensorimotor transformations.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Explain the mechanisms and processes underlying human attention.
- Identify and critically evaluate theories of human attention
- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.
- Demonstrate clear and effective writing skills, including the ability to communicate complex ideas in an impartial manner.
- Demonstrate effective time management and organisational skills; be able to assess your own learning against these learning outcomes and modify learning strategies

accordingly.

General Assessment Information

Late Penalty

Late submission of an assignment will attract a penalty of 5% of the maximum mark for every day that the assignment is late (including weekend days). For example, if the assignment is worth 40 marks and your assignment is submitted 2 days late, a penalty of $2 \times 5\% \times 40 = 4$ marks will be applied and subtracted from the awarded mark for the assignment. Work submitted more than 14 days after the submission deadline will not be marked and will receive a mark of 0. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to notify the University of a disruption to their studies and that requests for extensions for assignments must be made via the University's Ask MQ System (as outlined in the Disruption to Studies Policy).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Lab Report</u>	40%	No	Week 8
<u>Midterm Essay</u>	30%	No	Week 7
<u>Final Essay</u>	30%	No	Week 13

Lab Report

Due: **Week 8**

Weighting: **40%**

Highly structured report on an experiment you run in the Cognition in Action Lab, including introduction, methods, results, interpretation & conclusion (2000 word limit, not including references, figures/tables or captions). This is designed to give you experience in thinking critically about research, in presenting and interpreting data and in communicating scientific information in written form.

Please note that the word limit is strictly enforced: you will be penalised 5% of your report mark for every 100 words over the limit.

Your report should be free of grammatical and spelling errors.

Where appropriate, use textual evidence to support your argument/interpretation but do not quote long passages. Instead, try to reformulate statements and concepts in your own words.

Lab Reports are to be submitted electronically via Turnitin on the COGS702 iLearn site. No paper submissions will be accepted. The submission deadline is the end of Week 8 (Sunday 5 May @ midnight). Late submission of your report will attract a penalty of 5% of the maximum mark for every day that the assignment is late (including weekend days). For example, if it is submitted 2 days late, you will get a penalty of 10% for this assignment. Work submitted more

than 14 days after the submission deadline will not be marked and will receive a mark of 0. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to notify the University of a disruption to their studies and that requests for extensions for assignments must be made via the University's Ask MQ System (as outlined in the [Special Consideration Policy](#)).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and critically evaluate theories of human attention
- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.
- Demonstrate clear and effective writing skills, including the ability to communicate complex ideas in an impartial manner.
- Demonstrate effective time management and organisational skills; be able to assess your own learning against these learning outcomes and modify learning strategies accordingly.

Midterm Essay

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **30%**

In-class essay exam during scheduled lecture time (1.5 hours), which will assess all topics covered before the mid-semester break.

All students must attend lecture on the day of the mid-semester essay exam. If you are unable to sit the mid-semester exam at the specified time, you must advise the Student Centre via ask.mq.edu.au and must also apply for Disruption to Studies through ask.mq.edu.au and submit appropriate supporting documents. Original documents need to be presented at the Student Centre. This should be done within five (5) working days from the day of the examination. It should be noted that Macquarie University Policy states: "Pre-booked holidays will not routinely be considered unavoidable absences or commitments by the University". Students deemed eligible for a late mid-semester exam will be notified via email about the time and location of the exam. If a late mid-semester exam is necessary, there will only be one time available.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the mechanisms and processes underlying human attention.
- Identify and critically evaluate theories of human attention
- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.

Final Essay

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **30%**

In-class essay exam covering lectures, assigned readings, and lab content over the entire semester.

Students need to present for examination at the time and place of the Week 13 Lecture.

The only exception to sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for special consideration due to disruption to studies. If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Disruption to Studies process, the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the officially scheduled examination period for this course. The format of a supplementary examination is at each unit convenor's discretion and is subject to change from the original final examination. Supplementary Exams are only offered to students who have satisfactorily completed all other assessments for the unit and were unable to sit the final exam because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption.

It is the student's responsibility to follow the steps required to request a supplementary exam. An email will be sent to the student advising them of the outcome of their request. Students who are granted to sit for a supplementary exam must make themselves available to sit for the supplementary exam on the specified date. There will only be one time. It is the student's responsibility to email Student Centre to confirm attendance at the supplementary exam. You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching semester, which is the final day of the official examination period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the mechanisms and processes underlying human attention.
- Identify and critically evaluate theories of human attention
- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.

Delivery and Resources

Technology Used and Required

For this unit you will need to have access to a computer that can reliably connect to the Internet and install RStudio. This will be essential for completing the data analysis from the lab sessions and in accessing the unit's web-page, which can be found at: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au>

Required Readings

The course readings will be available through the unit's iLearn page.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://stu>

dents.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Demonstrate effective time management and organisational skills; be able to assess your own learning against these learning outcomes and modify learning strategies accordingly.

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of

knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Explain the mechanisms and processes underlying human attention.
- Identify and critically evaluate theories of human attention

Assessment tasks

- Lab Report
- Midterm Essay
- Final Essay

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Explain the mechanisms and processes underlying human attention.
- Identify and critically evaluate theories of human attention
- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.

Assessment tasks

- Lab Report
- Midterm Essay
- Final Essay

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.
- Demonstrate clear and effective writing skills, including the ability to communicate complex ideas in an impartial manner.

Assessment tasks

- Lab Report
- Midterm Essay
- Final Essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Evaluate experimental designs, analyses and empirical findings in terms of relevant theory and problems.
- Demonstrate clear and effective writing skills, including the ability to communicate complex ideas in an impartial manner.

Assessment task

- Lab Report

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Demonstrate effective time management and organisational skills; be able to assess your own learning against these learning outcomes and modify learning strategies accordingly.

Optimizing Learning

What does it take to do well in COGS702?

This unit is taught through lectures and lab-based sessions with support from web-based resources such as iLearn. While lectures are useful principally for introducing new concepts and knowledge, the lab-based sessions allow for a more hands-on and applied experience with the subject matter of the course. The iLearn discussion board also allows students to discuss topics in greater depth, and may also feature contributions by staff members when there appears to be confusion among the student body. The lecture schedule is a guide only, and is intended to be flexible. On occasion, more time will be spent on certain topics if additional explanation is required. As such, material from one lecture may overlap into the next, where necessary.

Students are expected to pay close attention to all lectures and to take notes to aid their retention of the material covered. Reading before lecture and then re-reading shortly after lecture is the best way to consolidate knowledge and enhance understanding. Attendance of, and active participation in the lab sessions is also mandatory. It should be noted that according to Senate guidelines, workloads should involve 3 hours per credit point per week. This results in 9 hours per week (including lectures and practicals) for a 3 credit point unit such as COGS702.

What material is examinable?

The essay exams will cover topics covered during lectures and labs. Where additional information on these topics is supplied in the assigned reading, this should also be considered examinable.

Note: Assessment will be based on the successful *understanding* of material from lectures, labs and from the assigned reading. Please note that rote learning alone will not be a successful strategy, as the assessments will test for deeper appreciation of the course material in a variety of formats. Simply remembering the “facts” will not suffice. Students need to demonstrate their understanding of the principles, and demonstrate the ability to apply such understanding in new contexts.

iLearn

Students should check the iLearn web site at regular intervals for announcements, lecture notes, terminology lists, and other supplementary learning materials. It will also feature a discussion board on which students may converse about course material, or any other legitimate business related to COGS702.

Academic Courtesy

It is the right of each student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please make an effort to arrive to class on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please enter the lecture theatre as quietly as possible to minimise disruption, using the back entrance if possible. Although some lecturers may allow questions during lectures, talking between students

is often disruptive and is strongly discouraged. Phones, pagers, and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class, and remain off for the duration of lectures and tutorials.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others on the basis of their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual preference, age, political conviction or religious belief. All lecturers, tutors and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone. The Unit Convenor is a member of the [Ally Network](#) and is happy to provide support to members of the LGBTIQ community.