

Module code: MOD002537	Version: 6 Date Amended: 06/Dec/2023
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1. Module Title
Current Theoretical Issues in Cognitive Neuroscience

2a. Module Leader
Sharon Geva

2b. School
School of Psychology, Sport and Sensory Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	MSc Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module will cover the foundations of the cognitive neuroscience approach and address many of the leading topics in the field, such as memory and learning, language, and executive functions. Past and present research will be covered, with an emphasis on currently unresolved theoretical debates. Students will gain insight into the relative strengths and weaknesses of different methodologies used for revealing the complex relationship between mind and brain.

You will be taught via lectures and seminars in which interactive discussion will be encouraged. The module will equip students with the necessary background knowledge for further postgraduate study (i.e., PhD) in the field of cognitive psychology and the brain sciences, or for a research assistant position within a university or dedicated research unit.

6b. Outline Content

- Historical and theoretical foundations of cognitive neuroscience
- Theoretical debates in cognitive neuroscience
- Modularity versus distributed systems
- Use of converging methodologies (lesion-behaviour model, fMRI, MEG, etc.) for tackling issues in cognitive neuroscience
- Various cognitive domains (e.g., memory and learning, self-consciousness, executive functioning)
- Evidence from studies of patients and neurotypical participants

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Lecturers should have expertise in the areas of study

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically evaluate different theoretical positions in the field of cognitive neuroscience.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand the organisation of the human brain, and how this can be informed by neuroimaging and neuropsychological methods.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Compare and contrast the strengths and limitations of different methods employed in cognitive neuroscience for addressing key theoretical issues.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop deep understanding of the importance of theoretically driven investigations to the advancement of science
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop theoretically informed opinions about the neural basis of various mental faculties, through the evaluation of current debates in the literature.
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Present their research in an appropriate academic style

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	None	None
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-5	12 x 2 hour sessions: Lecture and seminar format
Student managed learning	276	1-6	96 hours seminar reading and preparation 120 hours reading and preparation for coursework 60 hours reading and preparation for the exam
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-6	67 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
Essay (2500 words)					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	1-6	33 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
Presentation 15 mins (1500 words equivalent)					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]