Cognitive Psychology

Cognitive psychology is the study of basic behavioral and mental processes and includes such areas of inquiry as the biological bases of behavior and mental states, sensation and perception, learning and memory, the processing of spoken and written language, and problem solving.

These courses provide a foundation for graduate study in cognitive psychology and you should consider taking as many as you reasonably can.

Most graduate programs will look for evidence of research experience. Therefore, Psych 491 (Research Practicum), even if not in your area of interest is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

PSYCH 310 - Brain and Behavior – Survey of basic concepts in the neurosciences with emphasis on brain mechanisms mediating sensory processes, arousal, motivation, learning, and abnormal behavior.

PSYCH 312 - Sensation and Perception - Survey of physiology and psychology of human sensory systems including vision, audition, smell, taste, the skin senses and the vestibular senses.

PSYCH 313 - Learning and Memory – Survey of fundamental concepts and theories related to learning and memory derived from human and animal research.

PSYCH 316 - Cognitive Processes – The study of the human mind, addressing the processes by which people perceive the world, remember information, access and use knowledge, understand language, make decisions, reason, learn and solve problems.

PSYCH 318 - Thinking and Decision Making - Understanding human reasoning and decision making, including evaluating evidence, judging probabilities, emotional influences, and social dilemmas, with emphasis on the mechanisms that underline decision making.

Psych 410 - Behavioral Neurology - Examination of the neuroanatomical foundation of cognition, affect, and action from a neurological perspective. Focus on basic and applied research with neurological patients.

PSYCH 413 - Psychology of Language – Introduction to psycholinguistics. Topics may include origin of language, speech perception, language comprehension, reading, bilingualism, brain bases of language, and computational modeling of language processes.

PHIL 465- Brains, Minds, and Computers - Examination of concepts such as computability, intelligence, programming, and free will; and of arguments about whether any human capacities is forever beyond realization in a machine.

STAT 401 – Statistical Methods for Research Workers - Methods of analyzing and interpreting experimental and survey data. Statistical concepts and models; estimation; hypothesis tests with continuous and discrete data; simple and multiple linear regression and correlation; introduction to analysis of variance and blocking.

Other courses to consider: Psych 516, 519, and 521

For additional information and advice, you can visit with your academic adviser and/or graduate student assistant advisers, faculty adviser, or faculty in the cognitive area. Cognitive psychology professors at ISU include: Dr. Shana Carpenter, Dr. Jason Chan, Dr. Eric Cooper, Dr. Veronica Dark, Dr. Jonathan Kelly, Dr. Alison Morris, Dr. Bethany Weber, and Dr. Robert West.

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