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Cognitive Psychology: Selected Issues and Controversies

Form: Lecture + seminar, in-person, seminar room, IP PAN, Jaracza 1

Dates: April 8th, 2024 ; 10:00 - 12:15 hrs (Topic 1)
April 15th, 2024 ; 10:00 - 12:15 hrs (Topic 2)
April 22th, 2024 ; 10:00 - 11:30 hrs (Topic 3)
April 29th, 2024 ; 10:00 - 11:30 hrs (Topic 4)

Criteria:
The multiple-choice test result will serve as a grading tool. There will be 30 questions addressing course topics. Each question will have a cafeteria of 4 alternatives with only one correct answer. Final grades will be based on students' scores: very good (> 90%), good (81% - 90%), satisfactory (71% - 80%), poor (61% - 70%), and failed (< 61%).

Topics:

1. Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
    This lecture will address fundamental issues related to cognitive processes in the human mind. We will briefly review topics like attention, perception, learning & memory, or decision-making, among others, to see the field's scope and reach. After a short intro to CP, there will be a Q&A session to shape the rest of the course.

2. The Mystery of Consciousness: theories and research
    Consciousness remains one of the greatest mysteries in science. We will address basic theoretical questions in this field of research and the methods employed to answer them. Luckily, we will also resolve the Mind-Brain Problem that has puzzled scientists for centuries*.

3. Artificial Neural Networks and other methods of simulating the functions of the human mind
    Although much is known about cognitive processes that run on the brain, scientists are just starting to master putting this knowledge into the practice of simulations that would reenact the functions of the human mind. During this lecture, we will see how this venture's limited success has informed us about the cognitive processing of information.

4. Language and Mind - selected aspects.
    Human higher cognitive processing depends heavily on concepts and language. The last class will address the interactive play between cognitive processing and language/concepts to show their mutual influences and prove that nothing can replace the latter as our gate to human thought, decision-making, judgment, and consciousness.

*sarcasm