MIND I: How the Mind Constructs Reality
Social Sciences 14100, Autumn 2022

Autumn quarter of Mind challenges the naïve impression that our subjective experience of reality is a veridical reflection of the external world. By introducing a wide-range of phenomena that illustrate the constructive nature of experience-- perceptual, conceptual, affective, social, and cultural-- the lectures and readings engage students in analyzing the mind’s role in the construction of our realities. In particular, we consider our subjective awareness of and introspective access to the mental processes that shape reality for us and the bottom-up and top-down control of information processing in generating that reality. During the second half of the quarter we examine the dynamic nature of mind-- how our constructed realities emerge and change over time and the role of nature and nurture in their development across a variety of time scales, exploring processes that unfold over the course of milliseconds as well as those that unfold over millennia.

Course Schedule
Lectures: Tuesdays 11 am-12:20pm
Discussion: Each section will meet at the time indicated below for discussion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Lecture, Readings and Discussions. You are required to attend and actively participate in weekly discussions. In order to get the most out of the readings and discussion it is essential that you attend lecture and complete ALL the assigned readings prior to discussion. The readings come from a wide variety of primary source materials rather than a textbook. Thus, lectures are necessary to provide a coherent framework in which to understand the readings and situate them within the broader context of issues we address. The reading load is relatively light, giving you time to reflect on the week’s material in preparation for writing the weekly paper.

2. Weekly Discussion Papers. Each week students submit a short discussion paper (not to exceed 300 words) based on the lecture and readings. The purpose of the paper is to stimulate careful consideration of the week’s topic in a manner that is informed by the readings and lecture. Although specific instructions may vary with instructor, papers should raise issues or questions that are central to the material presented that week and that can serve as the basis for our weekly discussions. Your paper can take any number of different approaches to the material—you may contrast various readings’ perspectives on an issue, question an author’s basic assumptions, raise questions about the implications of an empirical finding for a particular theory, extend a theoretical argument to a different set of issues, etc. Although this allows you to focus on a broad range of potential topics, your paper must represent a well-reasoned and coherent presentation of your argument. Section leaders will confirm due date & time as well as any additional paper specifications for their sections.

3. Final Paper. Instructions for a short, final paper (5 pg.) will be handed out before the final week of class. The final will require that you integrate material presented in the lectures and readings across the quarter. Final papers are due Tuesday, December 6 at noon.

4. Course Grade. Your grade will be based on your weekly discussion papers (40%), contribution to class discussion and lecture (30%), and the final paper (30%).

5. Getting the Readings. All readings for the course are available on our Canvas website.
## Mind I: Lectures and Reading List

### Sept. 27
**Visual Perception and Illusions (Rosenberg)**

### Sept. 29
Discussion


### Oct. 4
**The Limits of Conscious Awareness (Awh)**

### Oct. 6
Discussion


### Oct. 11
**The Power of Concepts and Categorization (Henly)**

### Oct. 13
Discussion


### Oct. 18
**Constructing True and False Realities from Long-term Memory (Gallo)**

### Oct. 20
Discussion


### Oct. 27
**Constructing Preferences (Bakkour)**

### Oct. 29
Discussion


**Overview of Timescales and Ontogenetic development (Goldin-Meadow)**

Nov. 1


**Evolutionary Basis of Cognitive Biases in Decision-making (Maestripieri)**

Nov. 8

Discussion


**Representing Other Minds (O’Doherty)**

Nov. 15

Discussion


**Thanksgiving Week Break**

Nov. 21-25

**How Regularities In Our Environment Shape What We Hear (Heald)**

Nov. 29

Discussion
