Course Description: This course provides an introduction to a number of issues in Cognitive Science, a multi-disciplinary study of the mind that includes Cognitive Psychology, Neuroscience, Behavioral Biology, Psycholinguistics, Artificial Intelligence, Logic, and the Philosophy of Mind.

Grading: There are 3 exams (tf, mc, and essay) and one term paper (argumentative research), each counting 25% of the course grade. The third exam is taken on the day of finals, April 30. Grading Scale: 80-82 (B-), 83-86 (B), 87-89 (B+), etc. Class participation decides borderline cases. A student’s signature on any test or assignment means that the student neither gave nor received unauthorized aid. In order to receive a grade of S, students are required to take all exams, complete all assignments, and earn a grade of C- or better. Conversion from letter grading to credit only (S/U) is subject to university deadlines. Refer to the Registration and Records calendar for deadlines. For more details refer to
http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.15.php

Term Paper: The student may follow any format (MLA, Chicago Manual of Style, etc.). The paper should be 8-10 pp. in length, not counting the bibliography. The paper should contain a thesis statement in the first paragraph, then a description of the position or research, followed by arguments and evidence pro and con. The paper must incorporate material from all required readings that concern the topic + 4 additional sources from the NCSU library (book or journal article). The student must request and obtain the professor’s approval of the paper topic via email by April 9. A hard-copy of the paper is due in class on April 23.

Attendance: Attendance is strongly encouraged. Make-up exams with an excused absence must be taken the week the student returns to class. See the student handbook or:
http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php

Required Readings: Steven Pinker, How the Mind Works (W.W. Norton 1997), $14.00 used; Paul Thagard, Mind: Introduction to Cognitive Science, 2nd ed. (MIT Press, 2005), $25.00 used; articles from the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP) are found at http://plato.stanford.edu; articles placed on Electronic Reserve (e-reserve) are found on the link ‘Reserves’ at http://www.lib.ncsu.edu; articles cited below with electronic access from NCSU Library Journals are found on the link ‘Journal List’ at the same web page.

Academic Integrity: see the handbook, code of student conduct, or http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php

Student Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services Office (http://www.ncsu.edu/dso/) located at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509. 515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation at
http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG 02.20.1.php

Learning Environment: NC State provides equality of opportunity in education and employment for all students and employees. Accordingly, NC State affirms its commitment to maintain a work environment for all employees and an academic environment for all students that is free from all forms of discrimination. Discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation is a violation of state and
federal law and/or NC State policy and will not be tolerated. Harassment of any person (either in the form of quid pro quo or creation of a hostile environment) based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation also is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State policy and will not be tolerated. Retaliation against any person who complains about discrimination is also prohibited. NC State's policies and regulations covering discrimination, harassment, and retaliation may be accessed at http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/campus_envirom or http://www.ncsu.edu/equal_op. Any person who feels he or she has been the subject of prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should contact the Office for Equal Opportunity (OEO) at 515-3148.

Part I. Current Issues: Human and Animal Minds
WK 5 (Feb 3, 5) Review and First Exam (Th)

Part II. Theoretical Approaches to the Nature of Mind
WK 8 (Feb 24, 26) The Computational Model, T, Thagard, 10-22; Pinker, 21-34, 59-84; Horst, ‘The Computational Theory of Mind,’ SEP, secs 1-2; John Haugeland, ‘Semantic Engines,’ e-reserve; Th, Thagard, 111-131; Pinker, 112-131; Garson, ‘Connectionism,’ SEP
WK 9 (Mar 2-6) NO CLASSES -- SPRING BREAK
WK 11 (Mar 17, 19) Review and the Second Test (Th)
Part III. Special Topics: Images and Concepts

WK 12 (Mar 24, 26) Images, Descriptions, and Quasi-Pictures, T, Thagard, 95-109; Pinker, 89-90, 275-298; Thomas, ‘Mental Imagery,’ SEP, secs 4-4.3; Th, Thomas, ‘Mental Imagery,’ SEP, secs 4.4; Pylyshyn, ‘Imagery Debate,’ e-reserve.


WK 16 (April 21, 23) Concept Atomism, T, Margolis and Laurence, ‘Concepts,’ sec 2.4; Fodor, ‘Meaning and the World Order,’ e-reserve; Prince, ‘Informational Atomism,’ e-reserve;

WK 17 Final Exam, Th, April 30, 8:00 a.m.