PSYC 85. Higher-level Cognition

When & Where:	Days & Time: Tu, Th; 2 pm – 3:50 pm
	X-hour: Wed 4:15 pm – 5:05 pm
	Location: Moore Hall, Room 150

Instructor:	Prof. Jerald (Jay) Kralik

How to find me:	E-mail: Jerald.Kralik@Dartmouth.edu
	Office: Moore 259
	Phone: 6-0610
	Office Hour: Tuesday, 6-7 pm

Course Description: "What a piece of work is a man, how noble in reason, how infinite in faculty?" To answer Shakespeare's question is to understand higher-level cognition. Cognition balances our instincts with thoughtfulness and tempers impulsivity with patience. Cognition allows us to plan over long time horizons, to solve novel and seemingly intractable problems, and to rise above the concrete experiences of our daily lives to thrive in a world of analogy, metaphor and imagination. In this course, we study problem-solving, planning, reasoning, insight, decision-making, and symbolic processing. We explore whether these are distinct processes, what they allow us to accomplish, and how they may interact with other brain functions, such as emotions, to create nobility in reason and infinity in faculty.

Our Goal: To understand the prevailing and latest ideas about higher-level cognition, and to generate our own ideas and experimental hypotheses about these important cognitive processes and their underlying neural substrates.

Grading:
- 15% Participation 1: Leading discussion
- 35% Participation 2: Not leading discussion
- 10% First Presentation
- 15% Final Presentation
- 25% Final Paper

Participation: 50% of your grade will come from participation. It will be based on how well you lead and participate in the daily discussions (as well as attendance). We will assign discussion leaders once the course begins. In addition, everyone will generate four discussion questions per class period, two for each half of the meeting time. The questions should be forwarded to the discussion leader (and cc:ed to me) before we meet.

Presentations: Each student will give two presentations, each with the current version of your model of higher-level cognition in the mind/brain. I will say more about this in class.

Paper: There will be one Final Paper for the course. It should be a longer version of the topic of your presentation. Final paper lengths should be ~20 pages (double spaced, regular margins, 12-point font).

The final paper must be sent to me electronically _on the day and time it is due (TBA)_. The final paper must be turned in on time; grades on late papers will be substantially reduced over time with no exceptions.

Readings:
1. *Thinking, Fast and Slow (TFS)* by Daniel Kahneman
2. Everything else will be provided via Blackboard

Accommodations for Disabilities: Any student with a documented disability needing accommodations or academic adjustments is requested to speak to me and give me a copy of your accommodations form by the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Director of Student Disabilities may be consulted if necessary.

Honor Principle: Although this should go without saying, activities in this class, as throughout Dartmouth (and life), are governed by the honor principle. The presentations and papers should be in your own words.

Religious Observances: Please let me know during the first week of the term if you will be unable to attend any class meetings as a consequence of religious observances.

See Below for Meeting Dates, Topics, Readings, & Presenters:

Date	Discussion Leader	Readings
1. Tues—Jan 7	Introduction & Course Overview	
2. Thur— Jan 9	1st: Prof. Kralik: Evolution tutorial	Start reading TFS
	2nd: Prof. Kralik: Neuroscience tutorial	Background neuro chap
3. Tues— Jan 14	1st: Prof. Kralik	TFS Intro, Chaps 1-4
	2nd: TBA	TFS Chaps 5-9
4. Thur— Jan 16	1st: TBA	TFS Chaps 10-14
	2nd: TBA	TFS Chaps 15-19
5. Tues— Jan 21	1st: TBA	TFS Chaps 20-24
	2nd: TBA	TFS Chaps 25-29
6. Thur— Jan 23	1st: TBA	TFS Chaps 30-33
	2nd: TBA	Stanovich reading: On Blackboard
7. Tues— Jan 28	1st: TBA	Evans & Stanovich reading: On Blackboard
	2nd: TBA	TBA
8. Thur— Jan 30	1st: Prof. Kralik's model	TBA
	2nd: Prof. Kralik's model	TBA
9. Tues—Feb 4	1st: Student presentations 1	
	2nd: Student presentations 2	
10. Thur— Feb 6	1st: Student presentations 3	
	2nd: Student presentations 4	
11. Tues— Feb 11	1st: TBA	TBA
	2nd: TBA	TBA
12. Thur— Feb 13	1st: TBA	TBA
	2nd: TBA	TBA
13. Tues— Feb 18	1st: TBA	TBA
	2nd: TBA	TBA
14. Thur— Feb 20	1st: TBA	TBA
	2nd: TBA	TBA
15. Tues— Feb 25	1st: TBA	TBA
	2nd: TBA	TBA
16. Thur— Feb 27	1st: TBA	TBA
	2nd: TBA	TBA
17. Tues—Mar 4	1st: Final student presentations 1	
	2nd: Final student presentations 2	
18. Thur— Mar 6	1st: Final student presentations 3	
	2nd: Final student presentations 4	
19. TBA	**Final Paper due**	