COURSE DETAIL

PERCEPTION, ACTION, COGNITION
Country United Kingdom - Scotland
Host Institution University of Edinburgh
Program(s) University of Edinburgh
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Psychology
UCEAP Course Number 101
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title PERCEPTION, ACTION, COGNITION
UCEAP Transcript Title PERCEPT ACTN COGN
UCEAP Quarter Units 8.00
UCEAP Semester Units 5.30

Course Description
The course begins by tracing relevant theoretical perspectives, from a contrast between constructivist and ecological approaches to perception, to contemporary notions of enactive perception and embodied cognition. It will be argued that constructivist and ecological approaches have to some extent been combined in a ‘dual streams’ model of human vision, which emphasises that visual information is processed in different brain areas, in different ways, for different purposes. Evidence for this model will be considered, from neuropsychological symptoms arising from brain damage, functional brain imaging, and behavioural experiments requiring people to interact with visual illusions. We will then focus on the action side of this model, considering the requirements for effective action guidance, and sketching some basic control principles. Feed-forward and feedback control will be discussed, as a prelude to the concepts of inverse and forward modelling. We will then consider in more detail how we represent our bodies and the external world in relation to one another, in order to make purposeful action possible. We will draw distinctions between space occupied by the body, immediately around the body, within reaching distance, and beyond. We will refine our discussion of body representation with the concept of a body schema, and consider how the body schema relates to our feeling of ownership of our bodies. Finally, we will return to the idea of forward modelling, and consider whether this control principle can help explain how it is that we feel that like active agents in the world, rather than passive spectators on our own actions.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
PSYL10152

Host Institution Course Title
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Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus

University of Edinburgh

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

Course Last Reviewed

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