**Ecological Psychology Course Syllabus**

Spring 2019

Department of Psychology

Sun Yat-sen University

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Instructor | Jing Samantha Pan |
| Email address | panj27@mail.sysu.edu.cn |
| Office | Psychology building 206B |
| Class meeting time / venue | Wed 10:00 – 11:40, C502; Fri 10:00 – 11:40, C501 |
| Course website | https://palab-cn.github.io |
| Teaching assistant | Jian Wang: jwangmc@outlook.com |

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This class is designed to introduce the basic ideas of ecological psychology. At the end of the course, you should expect to know the topic areas, key methodologies, and applications of ecological psychology.

**TEXTS AND RESOURCES**

Gibson, J. J. (1979/1986): The Ecological Approach to Visual Perception.

Other texts and readings, which will be given to you in electronic format.

*Copyright laws prevent redistributing of these materials for profit.*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

There are 6 short homework, 1 in-class midterm exam, 1 take-home final exam and several pop quizzes in this course. You are expected to complete all of them carefully and independently to fulfill the course requirement.

**Grading standards**

Attendance and class performance 20%

Homework 30%

Midterm Exam 25%

Final Exam 25%

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Policy on missed classes**

Attendance will be taken for each class. If you will miss any class for legitimate reasons, you will need to provide official documentations. Nonetheless, it will be your responsibility to find out homework assigned and materials covered in the class that you miss.

**Policy on late work**

Homework will be collected during class time. Late work will be accepted with penalty. Twenty percent of the total credits will be deducted every 24 hours of lateness.

**Policy on academic honesty**

Although studying in groups is oftentimes helpful and therefore encouraged, all submitted work must be original, individual and clear.

Disciplinary action in response to cheating, plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct include: a "zero" on the particular assignment (for first-time violations), or an F in the course (if caught for the second time). The misconduct will be reported to the University, as required.

Students are expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity. Students are responsible for honest completion and representation of their work. There will be no tolerance for infractions. If you believe there has been an infraction by someone in the class, please bring it to the instructor’s attention. The instructor reserves the right to discipline any student for academic dishonesty, in accordance with the general rules and regulations of the university.

CLASS SCHEDULE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Topic | Assignments |
| 1 | Introduction |  |
| 2 | Gibson’s Insights | Assignment 1 |
| 3 | Optic Flow I |  |
| 4 | Optic Flow II | Assignment 2 |
| 5 | Depth Perception |  |
| 6 | Optic Flow and the Control of Locomotion | Assignment 3 |
| 7 | Visual Event Perception |  |
| 8 | Optic Flow and Its Clinical Implications |  |
| 9 | Mid-Term Exam |  |
| 10 | Affordances |  |
| 11 | Higher Order Variables | Assignment 4 |
| 12 | Embodied Cognition and Dynamical System Theories |  |
| 13 | Action Control Theories 1 | Assignment 5 |
| 14 | Action Control Theories 2 |  |
| 15 | Action Control Theories 3 |  |
| 16 | Movement Dynamics | Assignment 6 |
| 17 | Group Dynamics |  |
| 18 | Perception/Action Calibration |  |
| 19 | Intelligence and Self-Organizing Systems |  |
| 20 | Concluding Remarks | Take-Home Final |

**DISCLAIMER:** In general, the instructor will try to adhere to this syllabus. However, she reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus such as changes in homework and projects, due dates, topics and so forth. Such changes will be announced in class.