Programa | Course Description 2023/2024

Unidade Curricular | *Course Unit*

Fundamentos da Ciência Cognitíva

Código da Unidade Curricular | *Course ID*

FIL5.311424

ECTS | *Credits*

7,5

Ciclo de Estudos | *Level*

2º

Semestre | *Semester*

1º

Docente(s) | *Instructor(s)*

David Yates

Língua de ensino | *Language of instruction*

Inglês / English (but students may write exams and essays in Portuguese)

Programa (na língua de ensino) | *Course description (in language of instruction)*

This course covers a range of topics in philosophy of mind and cognition from an empirical perspective. We begin with the language of thought model and the classical computational theory of mind, and the possibility of artificial intelligence. We then study Searle's Chinese Room objection and turn to the question of how the symbols in the language of thought get their meaning. We consider various possibilities including functional role semantics, causal theories of content, and teleosemantics. We then turn to connectionist cognitive architectures and question whether concepts like belief and desire will be eliminated as cognitive science progresses. We will then introduce 4E cognition, which challenges the idea of the mind as a system of inner representational states. Finally, we introduce the neural correlates of consciousness programme, and study some of the techniques available to cognitive scientists engaged in the search for the neural substrates of conscious experience.

Avaliação (na língua de ensino) | *Grading and Assessment (in language of instruction)*

Assessment will be in the form of a written examination (50%) and an essay of 2500-3000 words (50%). Students will choose an essay question from a list to be circulated by the professor.
Students who fail with a mark of 7 or above can sit the final examination (100%).

Bibliografia (selection) | *Readings (selection)*

Readings will be provided for students via the Moodle platform, and there will be specific

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recommended readings associated with each class. The following books are very useful:

Dawson, M. Mind, Body World: Foundations of Cognitive Science. AU Press 2013.

Friedenberg, J. and Silverman, G.H. Cognitive Science. An Introduction to the Study of Mind. Sage 2006.

Thagard, P. An Introduction to Cognitive Science 2nd ed. MIT Press 2005.

Fodor, J. A. Psychosemantics. MIT Press 1987.

Lycan, W. & Prinz, J. (eds.) Mind and Cognition: An Anthology 3rd ed. Wiley 2008.