
Psychology 457

Introduction To Course

Who is the instructor?
How is the course organized?
What is the course about?

Michael R.W. Dawson

- PhD from University of Western Ontario
- Research interests in foundations of cognitive science, artificial neural networks, embodied cognitive science
- Research methods include computer simulation and LEGO robot fabrication
- For details about my research, [go to my home web page](#)



Credentials

- Dawson has published several books on cognitive science
- He posts cognitive science material at [Twitter.com/mrwdawson](https://twitter.com/mrwdawson)



Course Objectives

- To introduce some aspects of embodied cognitive science, and contrast it with classical cognitive science
- To expose to the differences between synthetic and analytic methodologies in cognitive science
- To provide hands-on experience with embodied cognitive science via robot construction



Course WWW Support

- There is extensive web site support for this course.
 - Syllabus
 - Slide handouts
 - Course readings
 - Slides
 - Notices to class (on home page)
 - Links to relevant material on other sites

http://www.bcp.psych.ualberta.ca/~mike/Pearl_Street/INTD554/

Course Evaluation

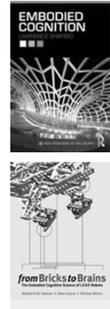
- Scaffolding final paper worth 50%
 - Handed in in stages throughout the term
- Three media reviews (30% total)
 - Reaction paper, 3-5 pages, on variety of material described in the syllabus
- Robot project worth 20%
 - Usually done in groups of 2 or 3 students, involves building, programming, and describing a LEGO robot; done mostly outside of class time
- Check the syllabus for the schedule!

Scaffolded Paper

Stage	Content	Worth	Max Raw Score
1	Title, Topic, Three References	5%	5
2	Annotated Bibliography	10%	50
3	Introductory Paragraphs, Outline, Reference List	10%	70
4	Final Term Paper	25%	70
		50% Total	

Required Textbooks

- Shapiro, L. A. (2011). *Embodied Cognition*. New York: Routledge
- Dawson, M.R.W., Dupuis, B., & Wilson, M. (2010). *From Bricks To Brains: The Embodied Cognitive Science of LEGO Robots*, Athabasca University Press
- We will try to make time each class to for you to discuss content raised in each of these texts



Course Purposes

- What is this course about?
- It is an introduction to embodied cognitive science
- It attempts to use the synthetic approach to teach this material
- Let us start by watching some short videos, and a longer movie, to get into the spirit of the course

