

Dear all:

Thanks for passing this on to interested graduate students (at MA level and up). This is for 7,5 European credit points, transferable. We may be able to help with accommodation.

Best,
--Frank

LUND UNIVERSITY

Course title: Reasoning

7,5 ECTS

Lecturer: Frank Zenker

Language of instruction: English

Course dates: One week (Mo-Fr 10-12 and 14-16) in autumn 2012.

Enter your date preferences now: <http://www.doodle.com/8r8b6vaxbaqnt7iq>

If you would like to take this course please get in touch with the instructor now.

E-mail: frank.zenker@fil.lu.se

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Course description

The study of reasoning—deductive, inductive, abductive, belief revision, defeasible, cross cultural, conversational, argumentative—is a major focus of investigation in both psychology and philosophy. Next to more traditional issues arising from the rationality debate, this includes a focus on fallacious reasoning and its reduction through education, the development of pragmatics, and the study of human reasoning process through neuro-imaging techniques.

Aim: The aim of this course is to enable learners to orient themselves in this research area (which may reasonably be called interdisciplinary) to the extent that they can actively participate in current empirical research and discourse on this matter.

We will work through select parts of a recently compiled selection of “classics” from a reader by Adler and Rips (2008). The three major themes are:

1. Foundations of Reasoning (Philosophical Viewpoints; Fallacies and Rationality),
2. Modes of Reasoning (Deductive Reasoning; Induction; Dual and Integrative Approaches; Abduction and Belief change; Causal and Counterfactual Reasoning; Argumentation);
3. Interactions of Reasoning in Human Thought (Reasoning and Pragmatics; domain-specific, Goal Based, and Evolutionary Approaches; Reasoning and Cultures; Biology, Emotions, and Reasoning).

Workload/Grading: Successful completion requires reading 20 to 30 pages per meeting, and the preparation and delivery of a max. 30 minute group presentation on one of the above subthemes (the presentation requires additional reading of ca. 60-90 pages). Learners are expected to focus on at least one of the above subthemes (see the table of content under the link below).

Grading occurs on the basis of presentation, an intermediate quiz, peer feedback, and a final paper (of 10-15 pages) due within 2 months after the end of the course.

Prerequisites: A background in mathematics or logic may be found helpful for some (but not all) subthemes. Learners with a background in the empirical sciences are especially welcome. A background in philosophy is not necessary to successfully conclude the course. Those interested in pursuing empirical work are assumed to have a background in empirical research methodology (which is not provided in this course). The course is open to students at Master’s level and up.

Reference

Adler, J.E., and Rips, L.J. (2008). Reasoning. Studies of Human Inference and its Foundations. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (will be made available).

<http://www.amazon.com/Reasoning-Studies-Human-Inference-Foundations/dp/0521848156>

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