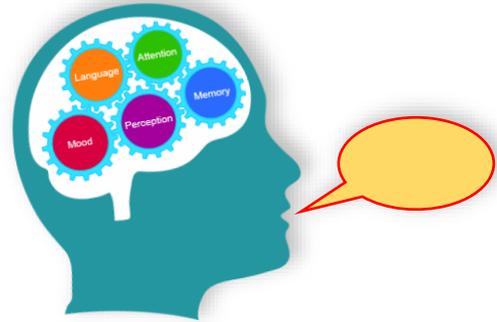


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## Byrne Seminar

# Knowledge, Language, and Cognition

<b>Program:</b>	Byrne Seminars Program Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs
<b>Course Number:</b>	01:090:101:36
<b>Course Index:</b>	14487
<b>Semester:</b>	Spring 2019
<b>Credits:</b>	1
<b>Course Dates:</b>	01/28/2019 – 04/08/2019 • 10 class sessions
<b>Meeting Times:</b>	Mondays, 11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.
<b>Meeting Place:</b>	SC-205 (Scott Hall, Room 205)
<b>Instructor:</b>	Alexander E. Pichugin
<b>Office Address:</b>	Department of Germanic, Russian and East European Languages and Literatures Rutgers Academic Building, Room 4132 15 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
<b>Office Phone:</b>	848.932.7781
<b>E-mail address:</b>	pichugin@rutgers.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & by appointment Scheduled meetings are given priority over walk-ins.
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Assessment:</b>	Pass/Fail Grade



## Course Description

What is the nature of knowledge? What is language? How are they connected? Does our knowledge control our language or does our language determine how we think and what we know?

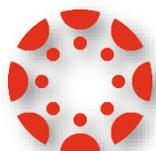
These and many other questions will be addressed in this Byrne seminar, which is designed to engage students in a discussion focusing on the connections between philosophy, culture, and linguistics. It is intended for all students interested in languages, especially those offered at Rutgers, but it is also open to anyone interested in cognition and languages in general.

The seminar will begin with an exploration of some general theoretical questions about the nature of language, including questions of what language is, how it relates to cognition, how it is acquired by children and adults. We will examine Saussure's structural approach to language, Skinner's behaviorist theory and Chomsky's Universal Grammar as well as discuss some linguistic universalia and cultural phenomena connected to language and knowledge.

As a learning outcome of the seminar, students will develop their abilities to approach the issues of language, knowledge and cognition both analytically and synthetically, exploring the connection between structure, history, and politics in critical and creative ways. As a practical outcome, the students will develop important skills in working with language facts by practicing oral and written interpretation, which will advance their ability to speak and write in general.

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## Study Materials



Canvas (<https://litt.rutgers.edu/canvas>) is the main website for the course. Canvas contains all required course materials and assignments.

All students enrolled in this course already have access to its Canvas website. Students who do not have access need to contact the instructor. Students should check the website frequently.

A desktop or laptop computer is recommended for completing course assignments – not a smartphone or tablet. Most browsers (e.g., Firefox, Chrome, Edge, Internet Explorer, Safari) can be used with Canvas. Students can also use mobile devices to access Canvas from an updated browser (i.e., latest two browser versions) on an Android or iOS device. The list of supported browsers can be found at <https://guides.instructure.com/m/67952/l/720329-which-browsers-does-canvas-support>. Rutgers Libraries have computers available for student use.

Students having any technical questions or issues with Canvas or needing technical assistance should contact the Rutgers Online Learning Helpdesk ([athelp@canvas.rutgers.edu](mailto:athelp@canvas.rutgers.edu) • 877.361.1134, available 24/7).

## Course Requirements

### **Class Participation** • 2% × 10

Active class participation is crucial for success in the seminar. To earn the passing grade, students have to participate vigorously in all class discussions and activities.

### **Readings & Videos**

The texts assigned should be carefully read and the videos watched. Students are expected to participate in the class discussion involving the materials assigned.

### **Online Discussions** • 5% × 6

Students will participate in online discussion boards on Canvas. Participation in a discussion board involves responding to the questions provided by the instructor in an initial posting (due by Thursday at 11:59 p.m.) and then replying to 2+ students' postings (due by Sunday at 11:59 p.m.) for each discussion topic in the discussion board. Discussions will be based on readings, in-class discussions, and multimedia. Students are expected to review course materials prior to participating in an online discussion.

### **Presentation** • 25%

A team of two students will prepare a presentation on a topic covered in the course. The length of the presentation is 15 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A. The presentations will run on sessions 8, 9, and 10. The topics and the details of the format will be discussed in class.

### **Mini-Paper** • 25%

Each student team will prepare a 5-page mini-paper to accompany their presentation (1 paper per team); the paper is based on the same topic as the presentation. The details of the format of the mini-paper will be discussed in class.

## Assessment

### Grade Composition

Aspect	Percentage
 Class Participation	20%
 Online Discussions	30%
 Presentation	25%
 Mini-paper	25%

### Grade Distribution

Grade	Points (%)
Pass	70–100
Fail	Below 70

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## Communication with the Instructor

### @ E-Mail

The best way to contact the instructor outside the classroom is to e-mail [pichugin@rutgers.edu](mailto:pichugin@rutgers.edu). Generally, the e-mails are answered within two business days. The e-mail subject line should start with [101.36 – FirstName LastName](#), e.g. [101.36 – Michael Smith – Question re...](#) This will help direct the message to the correct folder for quick processing. If the subject line is formatted differently, the message may be read with delay.

### 🕒 Office Hours

Students are invited to the office hours held as indicated on p. 1. In order to avoid possible situations of waiting, it is recommended to reserve a time slot within the office hour in advance via e-mail. Reserved time slots will be given priority over walk-ins.

Please note that the semester schedule does not allow the instructor to stay after class to discuss any questions. Students are invited to discuss their questions during the office hours.

## Policies

### Academic Integrity

Violation of academic integrity is an extremely serious matter; it can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to the University's Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than their own, students should always acknowledge their sources clearly and completely, whether they are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that use of online translation services is not permitted as a tool for generating work submitted for course credit. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu> and discuss with the instructor any questions about this and related issues.

### Attendance

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared. If a student expects to miss a class, he/she should use the University Self-Reporting Absence website (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra>) to indicate the date and the reason for the absence. An e-mail notification is automatically sent to the instructor. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse risk to fail the course.

**Note:** It is the responsibility of the student who has been absent (for any reason) to find out what he/she has missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

### Electronic Devices

Cell phones and all other electronic devices (iPods, iPads, tablets, audio players, etc.) must be turned off during class out of respect for fellow students and the instructor.

### Disability Support Services

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

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## Assistance and Support Services

### Dean of Students

- <http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu>

### Global/International Services

- <http://global.rutgers.edu>

### Public Safety

- RUPD: <http://publicsafety.rutgers.edu/rupd>
- Department of Transportation Services: <http://rudots.rutgers.edu>

### Rutgers Health Services

- Student Health: <http://health.rutgers.edu>
- Student Medical Services: <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/medical>
- Pharmacy: <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/medical/pharmacy-services>

### Disability Support Services

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of its educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, students with a disability have to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://ods.rutgers.edu>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential. <https://ods.rutgers.edu> • 848.445.6800 • Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854

### Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include individual and group therapy, workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling> • 848.932.7884 • 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

### Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty.

[www.vpva.rutgers.edu](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu) • 848.932.1181 • 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

### Scarlet Listeners

This free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline provides students with a comforting and supportive safe space.

<https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scarletlisteners> • 732.247.5555

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## Course Schedule

#	Date	Topic, Readings & Assignments
1	Mo 01/28	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syllabus</li> <li>• What is cognition? What is language?</li> <li>• Related Topics</li> </ul>
2	Mo 02/04	<b>Topic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Text</li> <li> Video</li> <li> Discussion 1 • Initial post due on Thursday, 01/31 @ 11:59 p.m.; 3+ replies due on Sunday, 02/03 @ 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>
3	Mo 02/11	<b>Topic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Text</li> <li> Video</li> <li> Discussion 2 • Initial post due on Thursday, 02/07 @ 11:59 p.m.; 3+ replies due on Sunday, 02/10 @ 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>
4	Mo 02/18	<b>Topic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Text</li> <li> Video</li> <li> Discussion 3 • Initial post due on Thursday, 02/14 @ 11:59 p.m.; 3+ replies due on Sunday, 02/17 @ 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>
5	Mo 02/25	<b>Topic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Text</li> <li> Video</li> <li> Discussion 4 • Initial post due on Thursday, 02/21 @ 11:59 p.m.; 3+ replies due on Sunday, 02/24 @ 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>
6	Mo 03/04	<b>Topic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Text</li> <li> Video</li> <li> Discussion 5 • Initial post due on Thursday, 02/28 @ 11:59 p.m.; 3+ replies due on Sunday, 03/03 @ 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>
7	Mo 03/11	<b>Topic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Text</li> <li> Video</li> <li> Discussion 6 • Initial post due on Thursday, 03/07 @ 11:59 p.m.; 3+ replies due on Sunday, 03/10 @ 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>
8	Mo 03/25	<b>Mini-presentations</b> • 1 <sup>st</sup> Round
9	Mo 04/01	<b>Mini-presentations</b> • 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round
10	Mo 04/08	<b>Mini-Presentations</b> • 3 <sup>rd</sup> Round  Mini-Paper due

**The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the Syllabus.**  
 The latest version of this Syllabus is available on [Canvas](#) → [Home](#) → [Syllabus](#).