Goals
The fundamentals of Human Cognition will be approached from both the Cognitive Psychology and the Cognitive Neuroscience viewpoints. The field will be introduced in its basic historical milestones as well as in its latest advancements and basic introductory concepts about the methodology will be provided. The core of the course will focus on the most relevant topics of the discipline including perception, attention, consciousness, memory, language, knowledge representation, problem solving, decision making and intelligence. In order to emphasize the empirical approach to the field of Cognition, practical experience will be provided for each topic through the class demonstration of milestones experiments using the CogLab software (installed in many computers of the campus computer labs).

Materials
Cognitive Psychology, Sternberg R.J.. (basic textbook)
Course slides, additional articles and extras from the course Black Board

Class and grading policies
This course has a multidisciplinary and empiric approach and as such it will include many technical aspects (i.e. statistical, biological, etc.). Students are therefore expected to attend all classes; unjustified absences will impact both directly and indirectly the final students’ evaluation. Active participation will impact positively the final students’ evaluation. During the course, groups will be formed to read research and review articles on topics of particular relevance in Cognition and the Neurosciences as well as to execute one of the experiments of CogLab, including data collection and interpretation. The two assignments will be the content of two presentations to take place at assigned slots throughout the course. The final exam will be a written test combining multiple choice and short answers. The final grade will be assigned on the base of A) the result of the exam (60%), B) the presentations (30%) and C) class participation and attendance (10%). Prof. Baldassi will be available to meet the students at the end of each class. Email questions regarding any aspect of the course are highly encouraged (sb156@nyu.edu).

External activities
In conjunction with the Perception course a mandatory visit to the Visual Perception and Attention Laboratory of the Department of Psychology of the University of Florence will be organized (date to be announced). This will allow approaching the basic principles of experimental methods and techniques in Cognition as well as getting in touch with Italian students of similar disciplines. Students with a direct interest in research may apply to join the lab on a more extended temporal base, according to the reciprocal schedules; if interested, ask the professor.

Topics and assignments

Friday, September 10. Introduction and historical notes. Readings: Class slides & Book ch. 1

Wednesday, September 15. Methods and techniques. Readings: Class slides & Book ch. 2
Wednesday, September 22. *Perception and cognition*. **Readings**: Class slides

Wednesday, September 29. *Attention I.* & Group 1 presentation **Readings**: Class slides and Group 1 article

Wednesday, October 6. *Attention II* & Group 2 presentation. **Readings**: Class slides and Group 2 article

Wednesday, October 13. *Memory I* & Group 3 presentation. **Readings**: Class slides, Book ch. 5, Group 3 article & CogLab experiment

Wednesday, October 20. *Memory II* & Group 4 presentation. **Readings**: Class slides, Book ch. 6 & Group 4 article

Wednesday, October 27. Fall Break

Wednesday, November 3. *Knowledge representation* & Group 1 experiment report. **Readings**: Class slides & Book ch. 7-8

Wednesday, November 10. *Language I* & Group 2 experiment report. **Readings**: Class slides & Book ch.9-10

Wednesday, November 17. *Language II* & Group 3 experiment report. **Readings**: Class slides & Book ch.9-10


Wednesday, December 1st. Written test.

Wednesday, December 15. Final evaluation.