

Spring 2010
Prof. Gollwitzer (peter.gollwitzer@nyu.edu)
11:00-12:50 Monday
Room Meyer #771

Office: Room # 780
Office hours by appt.

Psychology of Action

(V89.0300)

Overview

In the last decade, there has been a surge of research on the mechanisms of human action. This seminar covers most of the basic questions regarding human action: What are the mechanisms by which action plans are acquired (learned), mentally represented, activated, selected, and expressed? The seminar addresses research on motor control, behavioral and cognitive neuroscience, psycholinguistics, biology, as well as cognitive, developmental, social, and motivational psychology. The seminar thus adheres to a multidisciplinary perspective on the analysis of human action.

Requirements

Grading will be based on class participation (20%), weekly assignments (30%) and on a final exam (50%).

Course Outline

January 25: Introduction and Overview

Morsella, E., Bargh, J. A., & Gollwitzer, P. M. *Oxford handbook of human action*. New York: Oxford University Press.

February 1:

Cognition and action. (Chapter 2)

February 8:

Reflection and impulse. (Chapter 5)

February 15: Holiday – no class

February 22:

Semantic priming, procedural priming, and goal priming. (Chapter 9)

March 1:

Action representation: A developmental neuroscience perspective. (Chapter 13).

March 8:

Affect and action control. (Chapter 14)

March 15: Spring Break – no class

March 22:

Action, affect, and two-mode models of functioning. (Chapter 15)

March 29:

The nature of habit. (Chapter 21)

April 5:

Willpower. (Chapter 23)

April 12:

Nonconscious goal pursuit and the effortful control of behavior. (Chapter 26).

April 19:

Consciousness in goal pursuit. (Chapter 28)

April 26:

Switching between conscious versus nonconscious goal pursuit. (Chapter 29)

May 3:

Last day of class: Final Exam