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Prof. Adam Krawitz

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TBA on BrightSpace

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This is an advanced undergraduate seminar on the cognitive neuroscience of decision making. We will learn about research on the mental and neural processes and systems that humans use to make decisions. As an upper-level seminar, students will be expected to take an active role in the course and engage with the material.

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My primary goals for this course are for you to:

- Learn about the cognitive neuroscience of decision making;
- Gain experience reading and presenting peer-reviewed research on this topic
- Engage in academic discussions about this topic;
- Explore how this topic relates to your life and your interests.

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We acknowledge with respect the Lkwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNE





Participation in class and active engagement with the material are critical to a successful seminar course. We will all learn more if we ask questions, make comments, participate in group activities, and generally contribute in a positive way to the learning environment. I hope that the BrightSpace Discussion posts will provide a jumping off point for discussion – don't hesitate to bring up your post in class if it isn't being addressed.

There will be one written exam on . The exam will consist of essay questions that require you to integrate and apply the concepts and material from the course. We will discuss the exam in more detail during the term.

You are to select a topic related to the cognitive neuroscience of decision making. This could be a detailed exploration of a topic only touched on in class, a related topic, or an application of the course material to another area of interest. You should go beyond the course readings. This is an opportunity for you to find an intersection between the course content and your other interests. Your proposal should describe your topic, how it relates to the cognitive neuroscience of decision making, and how you will approach the topic, and provide examples of the relevant literature. A one-page typed proposal for your topic is due on .



BrightSpace Discussion posts are due for each class with an underlined class number (classes 2 through 18).  
Students may lead classes with a \_\_\_\_\_ class number (classes \_ through \_).



How are basic perceptual decisions made?

The Mind within the Brain: Chapter 11 (pp. 97-105)

Gold, J. I., & Shadlen, M. N. (2001). Neural computations that underlie decisions about sensory stimuli. (1), 10–16. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1364-6613\(00\)01567-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1364-6613(00)01567-9)

Mon., Feb. 15

Thu., Feb. 18





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# BE WELL

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

## Social Life, Friends, & Community at UVic:

Having a social network is an extremely important foundation for positive mental health. There are lots of benefits to joining clubs, courses, intramurals and teams on campus.

<https://www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/undergraduate/connecting/index.php>

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## Health Services:

University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[www.uvic.ca/services/health/](http://www.uvic.ca/services/health/)

## Centre for Accessible Learning:

The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. [www.uvic.ca/services/cal/](http://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/) The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

## Elders' Voices:

The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

[www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/](http://www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/)

## Mental Health Supports and Services:

Mental health supports and services are available to students from all areas of the UVic community: [www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/undergraduate/](http://www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/undergraduate/)

