

Course syllabus

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| Course title | Bodily awareness from a cognitive neuroscience perspective |
| Instructor(s) | Paweł Tacikowski, Ph. D. |
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| Affiliation | University of Coimbra, Portugal |
| Course format | Seminar (online) |
| Number of hours | 20 |
| Number of ECTS credits | 2 |
| Brief course description | The seminar will introduce cognitive neuroscience of bodily awareness, which has important implications for basic research, clinics, and technology. |
| Full course description | The distinction between what is one's own body and what is not is critical for survival and, thus, fundamentally important for human perception, action, and cognition. Some individuals with damage to their frontal and parietal brain regions fail to recognize their paralyzed limbs as their own, even though their basic senses of vision and touch are intact. What perceptual and neural mechanisms underlie the sense of bodily awareness? Students will learn about neurocognitive mechanisms of bodily self-awareness and state-of-the-art laboratory testing methods during this course. Theoretical models, as well as practical implications for modern prosthetics and robotics, will also be discussed. |
| Learning outcomes | After the course, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Define bodily awareness- Identify clinical disorders of own body representation- Explain the rationale and procedures of the so-called 'bodily illusions.'- Describe neuroscientific evidence on bodily self-awareness- Identify and compare different theoretical models of bodily awareness |
| Learning activities and teaching methods | There will be 5 seminar sessions (4h each). Group discussions will follow lectures. We will have group presentations and the final test during the last meeting. |
| List of topics/classes and bibliography | Textbook: Alsmith, A. J. T. & Longo, M. R. (2022). The Routledge Handbook of Bodily Awareness, 1 st Ed., Routledge: New York. 1. Philosophical and historical considerations (chapters 3 & 10) |

2. Neurological and psychiatric disorders of bodily awareness (chapters 24-28)

3. Developmental origins of own body perception (chapter 19)

4. Bodily illusions (chapter 15)

5. Neural evidence, theoretical models, and practical implications (chapters 12-15)

Assessment methods and criteria Homework project (20 points)
Group assignment (20 points)
Final test (60 points)

Grading:
>95 pts – 5!
90-95 – 5
80-89 – 4.5
70-79 – 4
65-69 – 3.5
60-64 – 3

Attendance rules Maximum 1 unexcused absence is allowed.

Prerequisites None

Academic honesty Students must respect the principles of academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism (including copying work from other students, internet or other sources) are serious violations that are punishable, and instructors are required to report all cases to the administration.

Remarks None
