

Cognitive Science and LLMs

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Course prefix: CS

Course number: 8001

Section: OLL

CRN

N/A

Instructor first name: Ana

Instructor last name: Rusch

Semester: Summer

Academic year: 2026

Catalog description:

Are LLMs helping or hurting your productivity? Are they causing you to lose your skills or critical thinking ability? Both? These are open research questions, and the findings so far are mixed. In this seminar, we will review and discuss human-AI interaction research and work together to design and run our own small studies to measure the effects of LLMs on our productivity and thinking. This seminar aims to develop students' ability to monitor their own use of LLMs, to notice when they are handing off thinking or decision-making to an LLM, and to decide if and when they want to do so. Together, we will develop techniques to help us see what impacts LLMs may be having on our work and our minds.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.