## Philosophy
### Introduction to Enactivism: Moving to Know, Knowing to Move

**Course Outline**
The aim of this course is to give an introduction to enactivism by lectures and experimental practices. Enactivism is a philosophical view on cognition and experience that Francisco Varela and other scholars developed. According to this view, cognition and experience are not just passive processes, but a kind of "making up" of reality through our action. In this course, students can examine to what extent the enactive view of experience is convincing by discussing in the classroom and doing experimental practices using special instruments and devices.

**Instructor (Institution)**
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**Type of Class and Class Hours**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Seminar</th>
<th>Experiment</th>
<th>Practical Training</th>
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<td>5</td>
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**Credit**
2

**Duration**
5 / AUG - 9 / AUG, 2019

**Organizing Institution**
Graduate School of Humanities and Human Sciences

**Level**
Graduate Level

**Place**
Sapporo

**Tuition**
¥29,600

**Language**
English

**Capacity**
25

**Target Group (Prerequisites)**
This course is designed for master's and PhD students who are interested in philosophy, neuroscience, and cognitive science.

### Key Words
enactivism, philosophy, neuroscience, cognitive science, phenomenology, body, action, consciousness, experience, world, environment, life

### Course Objectives
According to enactivism, our experience of the “outer world” is not a “photographic” representation of the “ready-made” world. Instead, the world is “made up” by our bodily action in a sense, while our body is moving in the world and dependent on it. So there is a characteristic loop here, which is stressed by enactivism. It will be very interesting to be involved in this strange loop by discussing enactivism in the course lectures and participating in several experiments with devices such as “Enactive Torch.” By this experience, students can examine and might renew their view of the world, reality, and self. In this way, they will understand why enactivism has been making such impacts on philosophy, neuroscience, cognitive science, artificial intelligence, robotics, etc.

### Course Goals
Through this course you will
1. understand what is the enactive approach to experience, cognition, self, and the world.
2. acquire knowledge of a phenomenological interpretation of enactivism.
3. acquire knowledge of enactive approaches in the field of neuroscience.
4. find clues to explore a new conception of self and the world that might open new possibilities for alternative way of acting and knowing.
Course Schedule

Day 1
1. Introduction
2. The history of enactivism (1)
3. The history of enactivism (2)

Day 2
4. What is enactivism? (1)
5. What is enactivism? (2)

Day 3
6. Experimental practice (1)
7. Phenomenological interpretation of enactivism (1)
8. Phenomenological interpretation of enactivism (2)

Day 4
9. Experimental practice (2)
10. Enactivism in neuroscience (1)
11. Enactivism in neuroscience (2)

Day 5
12. Experimental practice (3)
13. Students’ presentation
14. Students’ presentation
15. Closing discussion

Preparation and Homework

It is recommended to read at least a part of literature in the following reading list.

Grading System

Your grade will be determined by how well you demonstrate your achievement of the course goals through
1. participating in discussions and experiments. 50%
2. giving a presentation about your idea. 50%

Related Course (HSI)

Mandatory Course (Course required to be taken together with this course):

Recommended Course (Course highly recommended to be taken together with this course):

Textbooks

No textbook is required.

Reading List


Required Equipment for a class (Laptop, etc.)

Website of Laboratory

Additional Information

Update
15/Apr/2019