The Effect of Time on Earth on Performance & Experience (AKA: Ageing and Experience)
Spring 2019

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Individual Session with Instructor: tbd

Reading Group Session: Thursday 09-12:45
Classroom:

This is a graduate level course. Junior or Senior undergraduates may sign up with consent of the instructor.

Description

The construct of “Time on Earth” encompasses phenomenon sometimes attributed to experience, sometimes attributed to biological aging, and other times to “simple” decay or forgetting due to disuse (regardless of biological age). Adopting a cognitive science framework, this seminar will explore both of these constructs on human skilled performance and expertise while also exploring the often unvoiced causal assumptions of the researchers who investigate them. For our purposes, “skilled performance” includes aspects of human perception, motor behavior, memory, and decision-making, as well as the discovery or invention, by individual performers, of new methods of task performance. Examples of the skilled tasks to which we aspire to explain include action video games, medical diagnosis, surgery, driving a car, juggling, and any other situation where “even hesitating requires a decision to hesitate.” Our emphasis will be on the basic research and theories which shed light on skilled performance and which might be use to guide training. The syllabus may change during the semester with new readings being added and old ones pruned. Keep your eye on: http://homepages.rpi.edu/~grayw/courses/syllabi/m%20Sp2019/ for more information.