

WEEK 4

- 1. Review basic aspects of cognitive perception and information processing to demonstrate how complex these processes are for anyone who would try to program them (despite the fact that almost all humans can do these things routinely).**
- 2. Use Anderson chapters to review the basic process of visual perception – the two-dimensional pattern of light intensities that the retina receives and how the mind then reconstitutes this. How we understand where an object ends and the background begins; how we perceive three-dimensions, etc.**
- 3. Next step is how we recognize what it is that we perceive – i.e how we assign it “meaning”. Use Anderson and Quinn to show that this is a remarkably flexible procedure in which even small infants can recognize information in terms of categories – i.e. an infant who has seen images of cats can recognize a new image as being a cat even if they have never seen that particular cat before while they can recognize that an image of a dog as something different. Emphasize that while formation of categories is subtle and difficult, we would be hamstrung without it – it we had to regard each new object as a special case.**
- 4. Use Norrestrand's piece to show how much of this processing is unconscious – i.e. we are conscious of only a small part of the information we perceive and process.**