

**Cogs 102A \* READING PROMPT**

Hutchins, E. (2010a). Cognitive Ecology. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 2: 705-715.

1) In his description of the emergence of “Cognitive Ecology”, Hutchins discusses a shift from a model of cognition that emphasizes symbolic processing to one that is more cybernetic. How does the latter change the “boundaries” of the system under consideration?

2) Following Gibson, how does the view that “perception is something we DO” change the way that people do research?

3) Within the context of this course, explain the phrase: “Nothing never happens!”

4) How might “private, disembodied thinking nevertheless be cultural in critical, constitutive ways? (HINT: Vygotsky had one suggestion...)

5) Just as the properties of individuals can differ from the properties of groups, the cognitive properties of individuals and groups can also differ. Can you think of a contemporary example of “group cognition” that solves problems that individual cognition has (can?!) not?

6) Cultural psychology - and related approaches such as “situated action” or “activity theory” - incorporate multiple timescales in their descriptions of cognitive events. Briefly describe factors, at 3 different time scales, that have shaped a cognitive process in which you have engaged.