

Phil 150: Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Professor: Matthew Fulkerson
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All readings through TritonEd

Location: WLH 2207
Office: HSS 8073
Office Hours: Weds 2-4pm

Course Description:

This course will be a critical introduction to some of the foundational philosophical issues in the cognitive sciences. In particular, we will start to evaluate the contrast between computational/representational approaches to understanding the mind and recent work in affective psychology and neuroscience. We will see if there is a legitimate tension between the establishment views of the mind and a conception of ourselves as emotional beings. This is a fundamental disagreement about the very nature of the mind: to what extent, and in what way, might the mind be explained solely by cognition.

Required Texts:

All readings will be made available through the associated TritonEd course site.

Course Mechanics:

Lectures and discussion: I often lecture with slides. The slides will be used to focus discussion and organize complex material; they are not a substitute for the readings. The slides will be made available on TritonEd a few days after lecture. Students are expected to take careful notes and will be held responsible for the material discussed in class not found on the slides or in the readings. There is no separate time devoted to discussion; please (politely) interrupt at any time with comments or questions.

Reading Assignments: Students are expected to read each selection prior to class (preferably more than once). You should take notes while reading, keeping track of questions or issues that arise. You should bring both the reading and the notes/questions to class. 3-4 times per quarter there will be a short, unannounced reading quiz in class.

Grading:

There are two short essays, a final exam, and a quiz/participation grade:

Assignments	Value	Due Date
Essay 1 (5-6 pgs)	30%	Mon, Oct 24th
Essay 2 (5-6 pgs)	30%	Mon, Nov 28th
Quiz/Participation	10%	?
Final	30%	12/5, 11:30am

Course Policies:

To avoid penalties for late assignments, students must provide official documentation explaining why the assignment could not be handed in on time. Late homework without documentation will not be accepted. Late papers without documentation will receive a late penalty of 1/3 letter grade for each day a paper is late, including weekend days (no exceptions).

Turnitin boilerplate: Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism (via the TED interface). All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Tentative Reading Schedule (subject to change):

Part 1: Pain

- Week 1
Fri (9/23): Introduction, background, format, etc.
- Week 2:
Mon (9/26): Aydede & Guzeldere, “Some Foundational Problems in the Scientific Study of Pain” Wed (9/28): Aydede & Guzeldere, cont’ Fri (9/30): Auvray, Myin, & Spence, “The sensory-discriminative and affective-motivational aspects of pain.”
- Week 3:
Mon (10/3): Dennett, “Why you can’t make a computer that feels pain” Wed (10/5): Dennett, cont’ Fri (10/7): Hardcastle, “When a Pain is Not”

Part 2: Pleasure

- Week 4:
Mon (10/10): Pain wrap up Wed (10/12): Heathwood, “The reduction of sensory pleasure to desire.” Fri (10/14): Heathwood, cont’

- Week 5:
 Mon (10/17): McGlone, Wessberg, & Olausson, “Discriminative and Affective Touch” Wed (10/19): McGlone cont’
 Fri (10/21): Ellingsen, Leknes, Løseth, Wessberg, & Olausson, “The Neurobiology Shaping Affective Touch: Expectation, Motivation, and Meaning in the Multisensory Context.”

Part 3: Emotions

- Week 6:
 Mon (10/24): Prinz, Which emotions are basic?
 Wed (10/26): Prinz, cont’
 Fri (10/28): D’Arms, “Prinz’s Theory of Emotion”
- Week 7: Mon (10/31): Smith & Kim, “Comprehending envy.”
 Wed (11/2): Smith & Kim, cont’
 Fri (11/4): Sizer, “What feelings can’t do”.

Part 4: Biases and Aliefs

- Week 8:
 Mon (11/7): Gendler, “Aliefs and Beliefs”
 Wed (11/9): Gendler, cont’
 Fri (11/11): **Veterans Day NO CLASS**
- Week 9:
 Mon (11/21): Gendler, “On the Epistemic Cost of Implicit Bias,”
 Weds (11/23): Gendler, cont’
 Fri (11/25): **Thanksgiving NO CLASS**

Part 5: Motivation and Control

- Week 10:
 Mon (11/28): Huang & Bargh, “The Selfish Goal: Autonomously operating motivational structures as the proximate cause of human judgment and behavior.”
 Weds (11/30): Huang, et al, cont’
 Fri (12/2): Huang, et al, cont’, **last class**
- Final Exam: 12/5 11:30-2:30