

Phil 149: Philosophy of Psychology

Professor: Matthew Fulkerson
email: mfulkerson@ucsd.edu

Office: HSS 873
Office Hours: T/Th 1-2

Course Description:

This course will examine a number of fundamental philosophical issues that arise in the field of psychology (broadly construed). The course will be divided into several self-standing modules. These include modules on psychological explanation, methods, and theories.

Required Texts:

All readings will be made available through TED.

Course Mechanics:

TED: There is a TED site for the course. All readings, handouts, slides, and homework assignments will be made available through this site. It is your responsibility to check this site regularly.

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 TED 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 an unannounced group assignment in class, based on the reading.

Grading:

There are two short essays, a final exam, and a group work participation grade:

Assignments	Value	Due Date
Essay 1 (5-6 pgs)	30%	Th, Nov 6th
Essay 2 (5-6 pgs)	30%	Th, Dec 11th
Group work/Participation	10%	?
Final	30%	Thurs, 12/18, 3-6pm

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: Folk Psychology and the Representational Mind

- Week 1
Th: Introduction, background, format, etc.
- Week 2:
T: Peter Godfrey-Smith, “Folk Psychology as a Model”
Th: NO CLASS
- Week 3:
T: Frances Egan, “Folk Psychology and Cognitive Architecture”
Th: Randy Gallistel, “Learning and Representation”

Part 2: The Extended Mind

- Week 4:
T: Clark & Chalmers, “The Extended Mind”
Th: C&C continued; Adams and Aizawa, “Defending the Bounds of Cognition”

Part 3: The Affective Mind

- Week 5:
T: Aydede & Guzeldere, “Some Foundational Problems in the Scientific Study of Pain”
Th: Panksepp, “On the Neuro-Evolutionary Nature of Social Pain, Support, and Empathy”
- Week 6:
T: Smith & Kim, “Comprehending Envy”
Th: FIRST ESSAY DUE, Nov. 6th

Part 4: Reduction, Emergence, and Autonomy

- Week 7:
T: NO CLASS: Veteran’s Day
Th: Fodor “Special Sciences”
- Week 8:
T: Jaegwon Kim, “Multiple Realization and the Metaphysics of Reduction”
Th: Kim continued; Batterman, “Multiple Realizability and Universality”

Part 5: The Crisis in Psychology

- Week 9:
T: Henrich et al, The WEIRDest People in the World
Th: NO CLASS Thanksgiving
- Week 10:
T: WEIRD continued, John Doris, “The Crisis in Social Psychology” Th:
The False Allure of Brain Scans
- Week 11:
T: The Replication Crisis, reading TBA
Th: SECOND ESSAY DUE, Dec 11th