

PHIL 149: Philosophy of Psychology
Professor: Matthew Fulkerson
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TTh: 3:30-4:50 (Solis 111)
Office Hours: Thurs 2-3 & by appt.
Office: H&SS 873

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 explanation, reduction, emergence, laws, and methodology.

Required Texts:

All readings will be made available through library electronic reserves. The password for the reserves is **MF149** and *must be accessed from a UCSD IP address*.

Course Mechanics:

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

Lectures and discussion: I sometimes 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. Each week, a **homework assignment** consisting of a synopsis and set of questions will be posted to TED and must be turned in at the beginning of Thursday's class. We will discuss the homework in class. Assignments will be marked in plain English (scores between 0 and 1) and returned on Tuesdays.

Peer Comments: For the first essay, you will turn in a blind draft of your paper, which will be randomly assigned to another student for comments. The *comments* will be handed in and graded as the homework for that week.

Grading:

Essay 1 (6 pgs)	20%	Draft 2/4; comments 2/6. Final Due 2/11
Homework	20%	Due every Thurs, 0-1 points each (x10).
Essay 2 (6 pgs)	30%	Due 3/11
Final	30%	3/18, 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):

NOTE: There will be NO CLASS on Thurs, Jan 16th

Module 1: Psychological Explanation (Weeks 1-5)

Information processing and levels of explanation (Marr *Vision*, Introduction and ch. 1)

Functional Analysis (Cummins, Cummins 1971*)

Intentional explanation (Dennett)

Mechanistic explanation (Machamer, Darden, and Craver 2000)

Psychological Models (Weiskopf, 2000)

Evolutionary Explanation (Tooby & Cosmides, Richardson, Samuels)

Autonomy (Feest)

Module 2: Reduction and Emergence (5-6)

The Multiple Realizability argument (Fodor, Kim, Batterman)

Downward Causation Argument (Kim, Gibbons)

New Wave reductionism (Bickle)

Explanatory Extension (Hardcastle)

Module 3: Psychological laws (week 7)

Psychological laws (Bauer)

Laws for disjunctive kinds? (Antony)

Functional explanation and psychological laws (Roth and Cummins)

Module 4: Methodological worries (Week 9-10)

WEIRD Worries (Henrich *et al* 2010)

The false allure of brain scans (McCabe and Castel 2008)