

Phil 149: Philosophy of Psychology

Professor: Matthew Fulkerson
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Office Hours: Tues 2-4

Location: TM 102
Office: HSS 8073
11-12:20

Course Description:

This course examines several fundamental philosophical issues that arise in the field of psychology (broadly construed). The course is divided into several self-standing sections, including modules on psychological explanation and methodology, the nature of self, and recent issues in social and developmental psychology.

Required Texts:

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

Course Mechanics:

TritonEd: *All* handouts, slides, homework assignments, study guides, and readings will be made available through this site. It is your responsibility to check this site regularly.

Lectures and discussion: I sometimes use slides in class. 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 will be required to write one detailed question on one of the readings each week and submit it as a journal each week on TritonEd.

Grading:

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

Assignments	Value	Due Date
Essay 1 (5-6 pgs)	30%	Th Feb 8th
Essay 2 (5-6 pgs)	30%	Th Mar 8th
Weekly Reading Questions	10%	NA
Final	30%	Mar 22, 2:30pm

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).

Electronics Policy: To be discussed in class.

Turnitin: 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 TritonEd 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.

Academic Integrity: You will be held accountable for high standards of academic integrity. Violations will be handed over to AIO for investigation and will result in a course grade of F.

Tentative Reading Schedule (subject to change):

Part 1: Psychological Assumptions, Explanations, and Methods

- Week 1
 Tu 9: Marr, Vision, Introduction and Ch. 1
 Th 11: Peter Godfrey-Smith, “Folk Psychology as a Model”
- Week 2
 Tu 16: Dennett, “Intentional Systems”
 Th 18: Frances Egan, “Folk Psychology and Cognitive Architecture”
- Week 3:
 T 23: Aydede & Guzeldere, “Some Foundational Problems in the Scientific Study of Pain”
 Th 25: Panksepp, “On the Neuro-Evolutionary Nature of Social Pain, Support, and Empathy”

Part 2: The Self

- Week 4:
T 30: William James, *Principles of Psychology*, Ch. 10
Th 1: Cont
- Week 5:
T 6: Shaun Gallagher “Philosophical Conceptions of the Self: Implications for Cognitive Science”
Th 8: Stanley Klein, “The Self and Science: Is It Time for a New Approach to the Study of Human Experience?”

Part 3: Developmental Psychology

- Week 6:
T 13: Alison Gopnik & Wellman: “Reconstructing Constructivism: Causal Models, Bayesian Learning Mechanisms, and the Theory Theory”
Th 15: Cont
- Week 7:
T 20: Susan Gelman, “Psychological essentialism in children”
Th 22: Perner and Roessler, “From infants’ to children’s appreciation of belief”

Part 6: Perception

- Week 8:
T 27: Hurley, *Perception and Action*
Th 1: Cont

The Crisis in Social Psychology

- Week 9:
T 6: Henrich et al, *The WEIRDest People in the World*
Th 8: John Doris, “The Crisis in Social Psychology”
- Week 10:
T 13: The false allure of brain scans (McCabe and Castel 2008)
Th 15: Final Exam Study Session