

Phil 149: Philosophy of Psychology

Professor: Matthew Fulkerson

Location: WLH 2115, Tu/Th 11-12:20.

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Office: HSS 8073

Office Hours: Monday 12:30-2

Course Description:

This course will examine a number of fundamental issues in the philosophy of psychology. Of particular interest will be the guiding assumptions in the field about mental taxonomy: how the mind gets divided up into parts or kinds, and how such fundamental choices influence psychological explanation, autonomy, and ontology.

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.

Weekly Reading Assignments: Students are expected to read each selection prior to class. You should take notes while reading, keeping track of questions or issues that arise. You will be required to write one detailed question or response to one of the readings each week and submit it to the (non-public) class journal on TritonEd.

Grading:

There are two short essays, a final exam, and a weekly response grade:

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- **Essay 1 (5-6 pgs):** (20%). Due Thurs, Oct 31st.
 - **Essay 2 (5-6 pgs):** (30%). Due Tues, Nov 26th.
 - **Weekly Reading Questions:** (20%). Due Weekly.
 - **Final Exam:** (30%). Due Dec 11th, 2:30.
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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: Dividing the Mind: Folk Psychology

- **Week 1:**
Th 26th: Introduction, course mechanics, theoretical background (natural kinds, explanation, etc).
- **Week 2:**
Tu Oct 1st: SEP, "Language of Thought Hypothesis"
Th 3rd: SEP, "LOTH," continued
- **Week 3:**
T 8th: Churchland, "Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional attitudes" Th 10th: Frances Egan: "Folk Psychology and Cognitive Architecture"

*** Week 4:**

T 15th: Dennett, "The Intentional Stance"

Th 17th: Gendler, "Alief"

Part 2: Attention

• **Week 5:**

T 22th: Chris Mole, "The Metaphysics of Attention"

Th 24th: Wayne Wu, "What is Conscious Attention?"

Part 3: Emotion?

• **Week 6:**

T 29th: William James, "What is an emotion?" Th 31st: Eckman, "Basic Emotions"

• **Week 7:**

T 5th: Feldman Barrett, "Emotions are not Natural Kinds", "Emotions are real"

Th 7th: Griffiths and Scarantino, "Don't give up on basic emotions"

Part 4: Is pain a Natural kind?

• **Week 8:**

T 12th: Corns, "Pain is not a Natural Kind"

Th 14th: Fulkerson "Pain (sort of) is a Natural Kind"

Part 5: Animal minds (comparative psychology)

• **Week 9:**

T 19th: Kristen Andrews "Do Chimpanzees Reason About Belief?"

Th 21st: Keeley "Shocking lessons from electric fish"

• **Week 10:**

T 26th: Hoerl and McCormack, "Animal minds in time"

Th 28th: Thanksgiving

• **Week 11:**

T 3rd: Plant minds? Maher, selections from "Plant Minds"

Th 5th: Final Exam study session

