

**PHILOSOPHY OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE/PHILOSOPHY & COGNITIVE SCIENCE
PHIL3501/CGSC3004**

Carleton University, Fall 2016

Day/Time: Mondays, 8:35am – 11:25am **Location:** Dunton Tower 2203

Dr. Myrto Mylopoulos

Office: 3A47 Paterson Hall **Office Telephone:** 613-520-2600 x3943

Office Hours: Mondays, 12pm – 2pm (and by appointment)

E-mail: myrto.mylopoulos@carleton.ca

Teaching Assistant: Josh Redstone

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Office: 2220 Dunton Tower

Course Description

This course will examine the role and significance of philosophy in cognitive science. We will begin by exploring foundational philosophical issues and questions that arise within the field and guide it in important ways. We will then move on to engage with current debates within the field, with an eye towards examining the contributions of philosophy in helping to resolve them. Topics include: mental representation, concepts, language, action, perception, emotion, animal cognition, and consciousness.

Course Objectives

Our aim in this course will be to support and develop the following:

- An understanding of foundational philosophical issues in cognitive science.
- A familiarity with current debates in cognitive science with which philosophers have directly engaged.
- An ability to examine empirical work from within a broader theoretical framework.
- An ability to articulate a critical viewpoint on an issue clearly and effectively in both written and oral communication.

Course Materials

Required text: M.J. Cain, *The Philosophy of Cognitive Science*, Polity Press, 2016 (ISBN-13: 978-0-7456-4657-2)

Available from the Carleton Bookstore.

Course Requirements

Course Component	Percentage of Final Grade
Critical Reading Responses (x5)	25%
Midterm	15%
In-Class Presentation	20%
Term Paper	30%
Participation	10%

Readings

Readings will be assigned for every class session except the first class and the day of the midterm. All readings are required, except for those marked as ‘optional’ on the course syllabus. While optional, you are strongly encouraged to do these readings, as they’ll help both to fill in the background for and expand on some of the material we’ll be covering in class. Please ensure you complete all required readings for a class session before that session. Come prepared to discuss them.

Class Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. You are expected to arrive to each class on time and to be present and engaged for the entire duration of the class. If you are excessively absent (more than twice) without a documented reason, your final grade will go down by one letter “step” (e.g., A- to B+). A sign-in sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each class.

If you miss class due to religious or medical reasons, you will not be penalized, but **you must provide proper documentation.**

In addition, if for any reason you expect to miss class, please send me a quick note letting me know in advance.

For any class or part of class that you miss, for whatever reason, you are responsible for the readings and for catching up on the lecture material for that day.

Critical Reading Responses

Starting in **week 3**, you will have the opportunity to submit a critical reading response (350 – 500 words each) on some aspect of the assigned reading for that week. These are due **by 7pm** on the night before the relevant class. You may submit up to **seven responses**, but only your **best five** responses will be counted. These are worth **5%** each for a total of **25%** of your final grade.

Responses will be submitted via cuLearn. Late responses will not be accepted.

These responses are intended to give you an opportunity to critically reflect, in writing, on the main claims, arguments, or theories you encounter in the readings. As such, **you**

should not merely summarize the material you are addressing, though of course some summary will be necessary, but rather **evaluate** and **expand** on it. I will go over a grading rubric in class and some general guidelines for how you might approach these responses.

You are encouraged to use ideas you develop in these responses as the basis for your term paper.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be in the form of written answer questions. It will be held in class on **November 7** and worth **15%** of your final grade.

In-Class Presentations

Starting in **week 4**, each of you will have the opportunity to do a “conference style” in-class presentation on some aspect of the reading assigned for that week. This is worth **20%** of your final grade.

You will sign up for presentation slots on cuLearn on a first-come, first-served basis. Presentations will be 15 minutes each, with 5 minutes of questions afterwards. We will have three or four presentations per class, typically during the second half of each class.

You will each be required to meet with me no later than one week before your presentation date with an outline of what you plan to discuss. Please also consult with your fellow classmates presenting on the same day, to ensure that you do not significantly overlap in your material.

I will go over guidelines and a grading rubric for these presentations in class.

Term Paper

You will write one term paper in this course (**8-10 pages**). This is due on **December 5** and worth **30%** of your final grade.

We will discuss specific instructions/guidelines for the term paper closer to the due date.

Participation

Participation is a key component of this course and worth **10%** of your final grade. This means, among other things, coming to class having done the readings carefully and prepared to discuss them, asking questions during class, responding to questions asked by myself or a classmate, and visiting office hours to discuss any material that you would like clarified.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

The use of mobile phones in class is not permitted. Please turn them off (or silence them) and put them away. The use of laptops for the **sole purpose** of note-taking is permitted. If I see that you are using your laptop for other purposes, however, I will ask you not to use your laptop in class again.

Office Hours and Availability

My regular office hours are as stated up top. I'm happy to meet you at other days/times as well—just make arrangements with me over email or in person.

I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24 hours, but I may not always be able to do so. (And I'll likely be slower on weekends or holidays.) If you think your message will require a lengthy reply from me, please arrange to come and see me in person instead.

Course Readings/Topics Schedule (may be revised)

Week 1 (Sept.12): Introduction

- Optional: Brook, A. (2009), "Philosophy In and Philosophy of Cognitive Science"

Week 2 (Sept.19): Cognitive Science and the Philosophy of Cognitive Science

- Cain, Ch.1

Week 3 (Sept.26): Representation and Computation

- Cain, Ch.2

Week 4 (Oct.3): Modularity

- Cain, Ch.3

Week 5 (Oct.10): Thanksgiving (No Class)

Week 6 (Oct.17): Concepts

- Cain, Ch.4

Week 7 (Oct.24): Fall Break, No Class

Week 8 (Oct.31): Language

- Cain, Ch.5

Week 9 (Nov.7): Midterm Exam (No Readings)

Week 10 (Nov.14): Perception

- MacPherson, F. (2012) "Cognitive Penetration of Colour Experience"
- Optional: Firestone, C. & Scholl, B.J. (2015) "Cognition Does Not Affect Perception: Evaluating the Evidence for 'Top-Down' Effects"
- Optional: Levin, D. T. & Banaji, M. R. (2006) "Distortions in the Perceived Lightness of Faces: The Role of Race Categories"

Week 11 (Nov.21): Consciousness

- Block, N. & MacDonald, C. (2008) "Phenomenal and Access Consciousness"
- Optional: Lamme, V. (2003) "Why Visual Attention and Awareness Are Different"

Week 12 (Nov.28): Action

- Pacherie, E. (2014) "Can Conscious Agency Be Saved?"
- Wegner, D. (2003) "The Mind's Best Trick: How We Experience Conscious Will"
- Optional: Libet, B. (1985) "Unconscious Cerebral Initiative and the Role of Conscious Will in Voluntary Action"

Week 13 (Dec.5): Implicit Attitudes

- Levy, N. (2014) "Consciousness, Implicit Attitudes, and Responsibility"
- King & Carruthers (2012) "Moral Responsibility and Consciousness"
- Link to Implicit Attitude Test: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/education.html>

Week 14 (Dec.9): Emotion

- Prinz, J. (2006) "Is Emotion a Form of Perception?"
- Optional: Strack, F., Martin, L.L., & Stepper, S. (1988) "Inhibiting and Facilitating Conditions of the Human Smile: A Nonobtrusive Test of the Facial Feedback Hypothesis"

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. After requesting

accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735