



# CGSC 3004A

## Philosophy and Cognitive Science

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### OUTLINE AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course examines the role that Philosophy plays in Cognitive Science. We will approach this issue first by reading Clark's revised classic, *Mindware*. Clark looks at various topics in Cognitive Science from the critical perspective of Philosophy of Mind, and we will supplement our discussion of his text with a number of additional philosophical articles (to be made available via Brightspace). Second, we will examine a recent trend in Philosophy called Experimental Philosophy, or X-Phi, in order to determine whether or not it can make a contribution to the field of Cognitive Science.

Students will write weekly critical response papers, and will also make a seminar presentation focusing on one of the course topics. There will be no final exam.

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**Instructor:** Dr. Mark MacLeod  
**E-mail:** [mark.macleod@carleton.ca](mailto:mark.macleod@carleton.ca)  
**Office Hours:** TBA and by appointment

**TA:** TBA  
**E-mail:** TBA

Course prereqs: third year standing,  
CGSC 2001 and PHIL 2501

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### Materials Required

Textbooks: Clark, A. (2013). *Mindware: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Cognitive Science* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Oxford: New York.

Alexander, J. (2012). *Experimental Philosophy: An Introduction*. Polity Press: Malden, MA. (*Will be made available for free on Brightspace*)

Additional readings will be made available on Brightspace.

### Important Dates

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September 11, 2024

First Weekly Response due

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September 18, 2024

Presentations begin

## REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Attendance and Participation

You are expected to attend the seminar regularly, keep up with scheduled readings, and participate in class discussions. In other words, you should be prepared to contribute something when we meet. This doesn't mean that I expect you to come to class with all the answers, but it does mean that you should be prepared to engage in intelligent discussion.

### 2. Weekly Response Papers

Each week you will be expected to hand in a two page (400-500 words) response to one of that week's readings. Your response will consist of a brief summary of some portion of the reading as well as a critical commentary or response to an issue or issues raised by the reading. Since these response papers make up a large percentage of your mark for this course they should be carefully thought out, well-written, well organized, and should represent your best effort to come to terms with that particular reading. Over the course of the term you will be required to hand in TEN commentary sheets. See "Weekly response paper handout" for more details.

### 3. Seminar Presentation

You are expected to make one class presentation. The purpose of the presentation is to take a particular issue in Cognitive Science and explain it clearly to the class. As the presenter, you are responsible for choosing and presenting one article or chapter from the class reading list. During your presentation you are expected to begin by providing the class with an overview of the reading (i.e., highlight the main points of the paper, present a few key quotes), introduce some discussion topics (e.g., problems, unclear points, connections to previous readings, ideas for improvement, etc.), and helping to run the discussion for that portion of the class. Your presentation plus discussion will last approximately 20 minutes. You are required to meet with me the week before your presentation – more details to follow. Presentations will start in Week #3. I am also willing to allow you to work with a partner, and will have more to say about this option during our first class.

## EVALUATION

Assignment	Percentage
Attendance and Participation	25
Weekly Response Sheets	50
Seminar Presentation	25
TOTAL	100

### **Assignment Deadlines and Deferral Policy**

If, for extraordinary reasons, you miss an assignment deadline, you must notify me as soon as possible after the deadline.

A deferred assignment will be permitted under only two conditions: illness or bereavement. Documentation is required in order to schedule a deferral. If no documentation is provided, you will receive a 10% penalty **per day** for the assignment. This policy will be strictly enforced.

If you know that you will have trouble meeting a due date (e.g., because of other tests/assignments due on that day), contact me *in advance* to see if we can work out a reasonable solution (e.g., a short extension without penalty). If you do not do this in advance, then the above policy applies.

### **COURSE WEB PAGE (Brightspace)**

The course outline and readings will be made available within Brightspace. Student grades will be distributed in Brightspace, and not through emails. Students who do not already have access their Brightspace account should learn to do so [for student support, go to <https://carleton.ca/brightspace/students/>]. Please note that I will update the website throughout the term. What you can find on the Brightspace course website:

- Course Outline with a breakdown of topics and a (approximate) reading schedule
- Details of the written assignments and presentation
- A drop box (to be used to submit responses)
- General discussion forum (not monitored)
- Other resources for the course in general (links to interesting and relevant videos, articles, papers, etc.)

A note about the discussion forum: The forum is meant to give you a tool to communicate with your peers. The forum will not be monitored, so if you have a question that requires an answer from me, please email me directly. However, remember that posting on the discussion forum is not done anonymously. Be respectful of your colleagues.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

The class schedule is only a guide and is likely to change.

Class Date	Topic	Reading
Sep. 4	<b>General Introduction</b>	Syllabus
Sep. 11		Brook, Prinz
Sep. 18	<b>Philosophy of Cognitive Science</b>	Clark Intro, Chapter 1,2
Sep. 25		Chapter 3,4
Oct. 2		Chapter 5,6
Oct. 9		Chapter 7,8
Oct. 16		Chapter 9,10
Oct. 23	<b>Fall Break – no class</b>	
Oct. 30	<b>Philosophy and Cognitive Science</b>	Chapter 11, Clark (2022)
Nov. 6		Thagard, Van Gelder
Nov. 13	<b>Experimental Philosophy</b>	Knobe 2015, Alexander ch 1,2
Nov. 20		Alexander ch 3,4
Nov. 27	<b>No class</b>	
Dec. 4	<b>Summing up</b>	Alexander ch 5, Cova

## REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION COMMON TO ALL COGNITIVE SCIENCE COURSES

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 34), the letter grades assigned in t course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100    B+ = 77-79    C+ = 67-69    D+ = 57-59

A = 85-89    B = 73-76    C = 63-66    D = 53-56

A - = 80-84    B - = 70-72    C - = 60-62    D- = 50-52

F = Below 50

Grades entered by Registrar:

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

DEF = Deferred

### PLAGIARISM

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

### Statement on Student Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

### **Emergency Resources:** ([on and off campus](#))

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

### **Carleton Resources:**

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

### **Off Campus Resources:**

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306- 5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, [https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me- counselling-services/](https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/)
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

### **Requests for Academic Accommodations**

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website ([students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)).

### **Important Information**

- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean
- For us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CARLETON address. Therefore, in order to respond to your inquiries, please send all email from your Carleton CMail account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <http://carleton.ca/ccs/students/>
- November 15, 2024: Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall classes
- March 15, 2025: Last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter and fall/winter courses.

For a list of dates and deadlines, including holidays and exam dates, please visit:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>



