

# 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 recently 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 cuLearn). Second, we will examine a recent trend in Philosophy called Experimental Philosophy 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.

*Important note: this course will include classes or sessions that use videoconferencing platforms. You are not required to turn your camera on. Classes or sessions will not be recorded by the instructor.*

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Fall 2020

Time: Tues/ Thurs 11:30-1:00

Room: Online meetings (Zoom)

Format: Synchronous

**Instructor:** Dr. Mark MacLeod

**E-Mail:** [mark.macleod@carleton.ca](mailto:mark.macleod@carleton.ca)

**Office Hours:** TBA

**TA:** Scott Walker

**E-Mail:** [scottwalker3@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:scottwalker3@cmail.carleton.ca)

**Office hours:** 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.

Additional readings will be made available on cuLearn

### Important Dates

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September 15, 2020

First Weekly Response due

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September 22, 2020

Presentations begin

## REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Attendance and Participation

You are expected to attend the seminar regularly (we will be using Zoom), 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. Provisions will be made for the fact that we are using Zoom (e.g., you may elect to submit a pre-recorded presentation). 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 3% 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 (cuLEARN)

The course outline and readings will be made available within cuLearn. Student grades will be distributed in cuLearn, and not through emails. Students who do not already have access their cuLearn account should learn to do so [for student support, go to <http://www5.carleton.ca/culearnsupport/students/>]. Please note that I will update the website throughout the term. What you can find on the cuLearn 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. 10	General Introduction	Syllabus
Sep. 15		Brook, Dennett
Sep. 17	Philosophy of Cognitive Science	Prinz
Sep. 22		Clark Intro, Chapter 1
Sep. 24		Chapter 2
Sep. 29		Chapter 3
Oct. 1		Chapter 4
Oct. 6		Chapter 5
Oct. 8		Chapter 6
Oct. 13	Philosophy and Cognitive Science	Chapter 7
Oct 15		Chapter 8
Oct. 20		Chapter 9
Oct. 22		Chapter 10
Oct. 27/29		Fall Break – no class
Nov. 3		Chapter 11
Nov. 5	Experimental Philosophy	Van Gelder
Nov. 10		Thagard
Nov. 12		Bechtel
Nov. 17	Experimental Philosophy	Knobe (2015), Alexander Chapter 1
Nov. 19		Chapter 2
Nov. 24		Chapter 3
Nov. 26		Chapter 4
Dec. 1		Chapter 5
Dec 3	Summing Up	Knobe (2016)
Dec 8		Cova et al
Dec 10		No class

# REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION COMMON TO ALL COGNITIVE SCIENCE COURSES

## GRADING SYSTEM

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

A+ = 90-100	B = 73-76	C - = 60-62
A = 85-89	B - = 70-72	D+ = 57-59
A - = 80-84	C+ = 67-69	D = 53-56
B+ = 77-79	C = 63-66	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50		

Grades entered by Registrar:

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

DEF = Deferred

**REQUESTS FOR 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 me 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 see the Student Guide

**Religious obligation:** write to me 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 see the Student Guide

**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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me 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). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

## PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without

appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;

- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*"

Plagiarism is a serious offence, which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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.

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

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/registration/dates-and-deadlines/>

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

### **Important Information**

- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- All final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.
- 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/>

