

CGSC 3004A

Philosophy and Cognitive Science

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 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.

Fall 2022

Time: Mondays 11:25—2:25

Room: SA 615

Format: Synchronous

Instructor: Dr. Mark MacLeod

E-Mail: mark.macleod@carleton.ca

Office Hours: TBA

TA: TBA

E-Mail: TBA

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

Materials Required

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

Alexander, J. (2012). *Experimental Philosophy: An Introduction*. Polity Press: Malden, MA.

Additional readings will be made available on Brightspace.

Important Dates

September 19, 2022

First Weekly Response due

September 26, 2022

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. 12	General Introduction	Syllabus
Sep. 19		Brook, Dennett, Prinz
Sep. 26	Philosophy of Cognitive Science	Clark Intro, Chapter 1,2
Oct. 3		Chapter 3,4
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving – no class	
Oct. 17		Chapter 5,6
Oct. 24	Fall Break – no class	
Oct. 31		Chapter 7,8
Nov. 7		Chapter 9,10
Nov. 14	Philosophy and Cognitive Science	Chapter 11, Van Gelder
Nov. 21		Thagard, Bechtel
Nov. 28	Experimental Philosophy	Knobe 2014, Alexander Chapter 1, 2
Dec. 5		Chapter 3,4
Dec. 9	Summing up	Chapter 5, Knobe 2016, Cova

REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION COMMON TO ALL COGNITIVE SCIENCE COURSES

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;
- 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; and
- 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 University 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): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

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/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Statement on Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus. All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

Requests for Academic Accommodations

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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

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 [click here](#).

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 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).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

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.
- The last day for academic withdrawal for Fall courses is November 15th, 2022.
- 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/>

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

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