

CGSC 1001 A: Mysteries of the Mind  
May 4<sup>th</sup> to June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Summer 2023  
Syllabus

**Instructor Information**

**Course instructor:** Salah Mekhalalati (he/him)

**E-mail:** salahmekhalalati@cmail.carleton.ca

Please email me using your Carleton email address.

**Office hours:** Virtual hours Thursdays 2:00-4:00 PM EST on Discord or by appointment.

**Class Discord:** <https://discord.gg/jM5gk9XAXs> Please email me if link is invalid.

**Teaching Assistant Information:** TBA

**Course Information**

Summer 2023, May 04, 2023 to Jun 16, 2023

**Course title:** Mysteries of the Mind

**Course number:** 1001 A

**Delivery:** Online Asynchronous

**Department:** Cognitive Science

**Course Website:**

Brightspace will be used for access to the weekly course content, grades, announcements, Discord link, etc. It is recommended that students regularly check Brightspace and Discord for course updates and other information. Students are responsible for keeping current with the information on Brightspace. As an online course, our course website on Brightspace and Discord is going to be a dynamic space with many opportunities for you to make a meaningful contribution to the course and connect with your peers. These online hubs represent excellent places in which to ask questions, share your thoughts on the material, post interesting and relevant links, etc.

**Official Course Description**

Challenges faced in understanding the mind, and some of the approaches cognitive science has brought to bear on them. Topics may include consciousness, mental disorders, non-western perspectives of the mind and cognitive biases.

**Delivery Method**

This course is held online. The time holder for this course is Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35 - 5:25PM. To accommodate as many students as possible, **classes will not be held live**. Weekly lecture content and additional materials will be uploaded for your viewing which you can do **asynchronously**. However, there will be opportunities for students to meet with the instructor and peers during optional office hours for consultation over course material. Information regarding dates and topics will be provided on Brightspace. This is a condensed

course. Students are learning 12 weeks of information in 6 weeks. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they can keep up with the workload, course readings, etc.

### **Course Text**

Bermudez, J. L. (2019). *Cognitive Science: An Introduction to the Science of the Mind* (3rd ed.). Cambridge University Press.

Articles and other course materials will be accessed via Google Scholar, Carleton's Library Portal, or links provided on Brightspace.

**Disclaimer:** I reserve the right to change the readings or topics assigned. Changes will not add substantial workload.

### **Evaluation**

#### **Test 1**

**Value:** 20%

**Date:** May 24<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm

**Description:** Students will be tested on the material presented in lecture, weekly content, and course readings to date. Students may use class notes to take the quiz (open book). Test questions will include multiple choice and written answer questions. Students will have a limited window to write the test unless the student has accommodations granted by the university, in which case accommodations will be applied. Students may write the test at any time on May 24th, provided the test is submitted no later than 11:59 PM EST. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are adhering to EST and give themselves sufficient time to log in and write the test (for example, don't begin the quiz at 11:30 PM—you won't be given your full time to write the test). The quiz will be written on Brightspace. Should students encounter any technical errors when writing the quiz, they should contact Brightspace support.

#### **Test 2**

**Value:** 25%

**Date:** June 7th by 11:59pm

**Description:** Students will be tested on the material presented in lecture, weekly content, and course readings to date. Students may use class notes to take the quiz (open book). Test questions will include multiple choice and written answer questions. Students will have a limited window to write the test unless the student has accommodations granted by the university, in which case accommodations will be applied. Students may write the quiz at any time on June 9th, provided the test is submitted no later than 11:59 PM EST. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are adhering to EST and give themselves sufficient time to log in and write the test (for example, don't begin the test at 11:30 PM—you won't be given your full time to write the test). The quiz will be written on Brightspace. Should students encounter any technical errors when writing the quiz, they should contact Brightspace support.

## **Weekly Participation**

**Value: 30%**

**Due:** Ongoing—See dates below

**Description:** Students will use the weekly discussion board to participate in the discussion forum with other peers. Please see Brightspace for further information regarding weekly participation. Although our course is held online, there are many opportunities to engage with your peers and the instructor. Discussion forums are one way to do this. Students are expected to actively engage with their peers on a weekly basis by posting a discussion responding to the original post (by myself) and responding to at least two peers prior to the deadlines below. For a sufficient grade, **students are expected to write at least \*100 words\* to the original poster, and \*50 words\* to at least two other peers.** Discussion forums will open on the Thursday of each week and close on the following Wednesday at 5pm EST. Each forum open on the following dates and expires a day before the next one:

Discussion 1: May 4th – May 10th

Discussion 2: May 11<sup>th</sup> – May 17th

Discussion 3: May 18<sup>th</sup> – May 24th

Discussion 4: May 25<sup>th</sup> – May 31st

Discussion 5: June 1st – June 7<sup>th</sup>

Discussion 6: June 8<sup>th</sup> – June 14th

In order to keep with the spirit of participating with peers in a timely manner, extensions are not granted for participation and late posts will be not accepted.

## **Final Paper**

**Value: 25%**

**Due:** June 16th

**Description:** You are required to write a final paper for this course. Details will be provided on Brightspace but the final paper needs to have a proper introduction, body paragraphs and a conclusion. The topic is open-ended and is aimed to allow for what you found the most engaging in the course:

**Reflect on a topic in cognitive science that you found particularly interesting during this course.** Using concepts and theories covered in class, explain why this topic captivated your attention, what you learned from studying it, and how it relates to the broader field of cognitive science. In your paper, demonstrate your understanding of the relevant cognitive processes, underlying theory, experimental methods, and current debates within the field. Finally, consider how this topic might have real-world implications for domains such as education, technology, or healthcare.

Because the topic is open-ended, it is recommended to start thinking early of what you will write about. Papers must be submitted via Brightspace on or before the due date, and the submission will be open from the first day of the course until the deadline. Late submissions will have a penalty of 7% per day, including weekends. Papers that are 5 days past due will not be accepted and will receive a 0. Papers should be roughly 5-7 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12

point. Further instructions will be provided in class and on Brightspace. A grading rubric will be posted on Brightspace.

Should have clear outline (introduction, body, conclusion).

**Do not use AI tools (such as Chat-GPT).** Although these tools are helpful, the idea is to develop your writing skills.

## NOTES

1. The standard time for returning graded assignments is two weeks from the date of the assignment. If additional time is needed for grading, an announcement will be made on the course website.
2. A make-up test will be provided only upon presentation of verifiable documentation (e.g., a doctor's note). A failure to provide one will result in a zero. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if a quiz is missed. Students must contact the instructor within 24 hours of a missed quiz to schedule a make-up. This is the student's responsibility. Arrangements must be made directly with the instructor. There are no exceptions.
3. Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
4. Students should keep up with course readings as per the schedule below. Students will be responsible in managing their time in approaching textbook material and concepts selected by the professor. The professor is available throughout the semester to meet with students. It is strongly recommended that students consult with him as needed. **This is a condensed course. You are expected to plan your time wisely and complete evaluations on time.**
5. Reweighting of course material is not possible.
6. All evaluations will be submitted through Brightspace. All feedback will be provided through Brightspace. Save copies of your work and back up your files.

## Extra credit

Extra credit is available in the course up to a maximum of 4% total through participation in Department of Cognitive Science (DCS) experiments. Participation in these activities is optional. For more information about how to participate in DCS experiments, go to the DCS SONA website under SONA: Cognitive Science Research. <https://carleton.ca/cognitivescience/research/>

Again, your participation is entirely optional.

If you have questions about SONA, contact **Melissa Lett** [MelissaLett@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:MelissaLett@cunet.carleton.ca)

**Class Schedule:** Each class contains required readings (listed below) and one or more of the following: pre-recorded Zoom lectures, YouTube videos, links to webpages for additional reading, mandatory discussion boards, and activities. While the reading content may seem heavy, remember that this is a condensed course, so one class is equal to two standard classes. The

readings are standard for a first-year course. For some classes, you may have a little less or a little more reading assigned.

Lecture Schedule	LECTURE NAME	Assignments Due
May 4th, 2023 – May 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	One: Course Outline, Mysteries of the Mind, History of Cognitive Science, Foundations and Physical Systems	Bermudez, Chapter One and Chapter Four*  *skip sections on Intentional Realism, and Language of Thought Relation to Syntax and Semantics  <b>Discussion One Due May 10th</b>
May 11th, 2023 - May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Week 2: Looking at the Brain and Brain Mapping	Bermudez, Chapter Three, and Chapter Nine  <b>Discussion Two Due May 17th</b>
May 18th, 2023 – May 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Week 3: Consciousness, Animal Consciousness, and the Disordered Mind	Bermudez, Chapter Fifteen  Allen & Bekoff, Animal Consciousness  Morrell, Animal Wise Introduction  TBA  <b>Discussion Three Due May 24<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Test 1 Due May 24<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm EST (covers weeks 1 – 3)</b>
May 25th, 2023 – May 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	Week 4: Neural Networks, Artificial Intelligence and Robots	TBA  Bermudez, Chapter Sixteen  <b>Discussion Four Due May 31<sup>st</sup></b>
June 1st, 2023 – June 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Week 5: Mindfulness, Spirituality, and Religion	TBA  <b>Discussion Five Due June 7th</b>  <b>Test 2 Due June 7<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm EST (covers weeks 4 – 5)</b>

June 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 – June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Week 6: Cognitive Biases, Ethics, and the Future	Bermudez, Chapter Seventeen TBA  <b>Discussion Six Due June 14th</b>
June 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 – June 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Week 7: No topic scheduled	<b>Final Paper Due by June 16<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm</b>

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+ = 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;
- 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.

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### 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>

#### **Requests for Academic Accommodations**

##### **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 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](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).

### **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.
- 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/>

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

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/#summer2023>