

PHILOSOPHY AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE
(CGSC3004 B)

Carleton University, Winter 2023

Day/Time: Mondays, 8:35-11:25am **Location:** Southam Hall 516
Prof. Myrto Mylopoulos

Office Hours: By appointment (over Zoom)

E-mail: Myrto.Mylopoulos@carleton.ca

Course Website: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/130946>

Course Description

This course will examine the role and significance of philosophy within cognitive science. We will focus, in particular, on contemporary debates within cognitive science that have emerged within recent years, with an eye towards examining contributions from philosophy in helping to advance or resolve them. Along the way, we will also look at ways in which empirical findings from cognitive science have influenced theorizing about classic philosophical issues. Topics include: cognition, perception, emotion, attention, free will and agency, moral psychology, artificial intelligence, and consciousness.

Course Prerequisites: CGSC 2001 and PHIL 2501, and third-year standing.

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 from a philosophical perspective.
- An understanding of the role of philosophy in cognitive science and vice versa.
- 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 writing.

Course Materials

- All required readings and additional resources will be made available on Brightspace.

Course Requirements

Course Component	Percentage of Final Grade
Reading Assignments (Perusall)	20%
Short Writing Assignments x 2 (Worth 15% and 20% respectively)	35%
Term Paper (incl. abstract)	35%
Participation	10%

Reading Assignments

Readings will be assigned for every class session except the first. All readings are required, except for those marked '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 upon, the material we'll be discussing in class.

To work through the readings, we will be using Perusall, a collaborative e-reading platform that enables you to tackle the readings together as a group in between our class sessions. The reading assignments you complete on Perusall will be worth **20%** of your final grade. They will be due the day before class **(Sundays) by 5pm**.

Reading assignments on Perusall will be counted in your grade from week 2 onwards.

To register for a free Perusall account, go here: <https://app.perusall.com/> For info on how to use it, please see: <https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/categories/360002173133-Students>

Short Writing Assignments

There are two short writing assignments in this course. The main purpose of these writing assignments is to help you build up the skills necessary for writing your term paper.

Writing Assignment #1 (15%): (750 words)

DUE: Friday, Feb. 10 by 11:59pm

We will go over instructions and a marking rubric in class.

Writing Assignment #2 (20%) (1500 words)

DUE: Friday, March 24 by 11:59pm

We will go over instructions and a marking rubric in class.

Writing assignments will be submitted via Brightspace.

Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day, including weekends, except in the case of serious illness or emergency with appropriate documentation (where applicable).

Term Paper (Take-Home Final Exam)

You will write one term paper (**2000 words, excluding references**) due on **Wednesday, April 27th by 11:59pm** and worth **35%** of your final grade. Late submissions will be

penalized 5% per day, including weekends, except in the case of serious illness or emergency with appropriate documentation (where applicable).

You will submit a short (approx. 150 words) abstract of your paper worth **5%** of your final paper grade. You have until **Monday, March 27th by 11:59pm** to submit your abstract. The purpose of this abstract is to articulate the basic outline of your paper, and receive some feedback from me prior to writing it. It will be graded for completion only (pass/fail).

We will discuss further instructions/guidelines and for the final paper in class.

Class Participation

Participation is a key component of this course and worth **10%** of your final grade.

There are four main ways to earn your participation grade:

1. By being actively engaged throughout the duration of each class and contributing to class discussions.
2. By participating in class exercises.
3. By contributing to the class discussions about the course readings on Perusall (going above and beyond what is strictly required for the reading assignment).
4. By making an appointment to discuss course material.

If for any reason you expect to miss a class, I would appreciate a quick note letting me know.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

Please turn off (or silence) your cell phones and put them away at the start of class. The use of laptops for the **sole purpose** of note-taking is permitted.

Online Availability

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. See Brightspace for most up-to-date version.***

Week 1 (Jan. 9): Introduction

- Optional: Brook (2009), "Philosophy In and Philosophy of Cognitive Science"
- Optional: Bechtel (2010), "How Can Philosophy Be a True Cognitive Science Discipline?"

Week 2 (Jan. 16): Foundational Issues

- Fodor (1981), "The Mind-Body Problem"
- Fodor (1997), "The Representational Theory of Mind"

Week 3 (Jan. 23): Cognition

- Carruthers (2014), “On Central Cognition”
- Buckner (2015), “A Property Cluster Theory of Cognition”

Week 4 (Jan. 30): Perception

- Mandelbaum (2017), “Seeing and Conceptualizing: Modularity and the Shallow Contents of Perception”
- Beck (2017), “Marking the Perception-Cognition Boundary: The Criterion of Stimulus-Dependence”

Week 5 (Feb. 6): Attention

- Wu (2011), “Attention as Selection for Action”
- Buehler (2018), “A Dilemma for ‘Selection for Action’”

Week 6 (Feb. 13): Emotion

- Loaiza (2020) “Emotions and the Problem of Variability”
- Majeed (2022), “Does the Problem of Variability Justify Barrett’s Emotion Revolution?”

Week 7 (Feb. 20): No Class (Winter Break)

Week 8 (Feb. 27): Consciousness (cont’d)

- Chalmers (1995), “Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness”
- Cohen & Dennett (2011), “Consciousness Cannot Be Separated from Function”

Week 9 (March 6): Agency and Free Will

- Pacherie (2014), “Can Conscious Agency Be Saved?”
- Mudrik et al. (2022), “Free Will Without Consciousness?”

Week 10 (March 13): Artificial Intelligence

- Schwitzgebel & Mara (2015), “A Defense of the Rights of Artificial Intelligence”
- Shevlin (2021), “How Could We Know When a Robot Was a Moral Patient?”
 - Optional: Sparrow (2012), “Can Machines Be People? Reflections on the Turing Triage Test”

Week 11 (March 20): Belief

- Levy (2014), “Neither Fish Nor Fowl: Implicit Attitudes as Patchy Endorsements”
- Mandelbaum (2016), “Attitude, Inference, Association: On the Propositional Structure of Implicit Bias”

Week 12 (March 27): Moral Psychology

- Rini (2013), “Feedback from Moral Philosophy to Cognitive Science”
- Greene (2015), “Beyond Point and Shoot Morality: Why Cognitive (Neuro)Science Matters for Ethics”

Week 13 (April 3): Animal Cognition

- Monso & Andrews “Animal Moral Psychologies”

Week 14 (April 10): TBA

Additional Information

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; 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/emergencynumbers/>

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, the university continues to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained.

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:** Please 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:** Please 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/wpcontent/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 Winter courses is March 15th, 2023.
- 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/>