

Thinking and Knowing: FYSM 1607 A
Fall/Winter 2020/21
Syllabus

Instructor Information

Course instructor: Dr. Nalini E. Ramlakhan, PhD

E-mail: naliniramlakhan@cunet.carleton.ca

Office hours: Virtual, by appointment

Course Information

Fall/Winter 2020/21, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:35AM-12:55PM

Course title: Thinking and Knowing

Course number: 1607 A

Room: N/A

Department: Cognitive Science

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s): normally restricted to students entering the first year of a B.A., B.Cog.Sc., B.Co.M.S., B.Econ. or B.G.In.S. program.

Course Website:

CULearn will be used for access to the course content, grades, announcements, discussion boards, etc. It is recommended that students regularly check CULearn for course updates and other information. Students are responsible for keeping current with the information on CULearn. Students must check CULearn regularly for important messages, course information, assignment information, and exam information.

Official Course Description

Interdisciplinary examination of discoveries in linguistics, psychology, philosophy, and computer science concerning the question “What is cognition”? Issues may include the mind-brain controversy, the role of language in thought, and artificial versus natural intelligence.

Detailed Course Description

This First-Year Seminar is about consciousness. Our goal in this course is to examine some of the major issues concerning consciousness, and apply our knowledge to real world examples. Some of the topics we will explore include, but are not limited to, the relationship between mind and body, knowledge of other minds, knowledge of the external world, animal minds, personal identity, artificial intelligence, free will, and mindfulness and meditation.

The course is organized into eight core units, each running for approximately one month:

1) Mind, World, and Knowledge, 2) Consciousness and Personal Identity, 3) Neuroscience and Consciousness, 4) Evolution and Animal Consciousness, 5) Artificial Consciousness, 6) Borderlands of Consciousness, 7) Altered States of Consciousness, and 8) First-Person Approaches to Consciousness. We will discuss some of the most intriguing questions about

human consciousness, including the following: What is the mind? Are the mind and body the same thing? Is the mind a computer? What does it mean to be a 'self'? To what degree are animals conscious? Can an AI have consciousness? How do we know the difference between reality and imagination? Does the paranormal exist? What happens to consciousness when we sleep? How do drugs alter consciousness? What is mindfulness? How does meditation affect consciousness? Our journey into consciousness will explore both Western and Eastern understandings of consciousness.

Course Text

Blackmore, Susan. *Consciousness* (2nd edition). New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

There will also be videos posted that are the equivalent of required readings.

I may suggest optional readings outside of the course textbook. They are recommendations for students who wish to further their interest in a specific topic.

The course text is made available for free as an e book via Carleton's library portal. If you would like a physical copy of the book, I recommend ordering the book early from Amazon. Articles and other course materials: accessed via Google Scholar, Carleton's Library Portal, or links provided on CULearn.

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

Evaluation

DISCUSSION/PARTICIPATION

Value: 40%

Description: Classes are far more rewarding and effective when students are actively engaged with the material. During the discussion period for each unit, I will post a discussion question in the forum, and I require your participation in responding and sharing your ideas with your peers. You will be graded based on the quality of your contributions. A maximum of 5% of this grade will be awarded per discussion, and there will be 8 discussions in total. If you miss the discussion, you will receive a 0 unless verifiable or excusable documentation is provided. There is one discussion per unit. Discussion dates can be found below in the course schedule.

UNIT ACTIVITIES

Value: 40%

Due: Ongoing—See dates below

Description: Students will complete an activity for each unit. There are 8 units in total, and each activity is worth 5%. In an effort to keep the seminar-style approach for this course while keeping in mind the restraints caused by the pandemic, students will participate in unit activities

that will engage them with the course material. Each unit's activity is different and will therefore develop multiple skills. Instructions for each activity will be posted on CULearn. Students must submit the activity by the due date, which is no later than the final day of each unit. Students will have access to the activity at the beginning of each unit. See 'Notes' for missed activities.

TAKE-HOME EXAM

Value: 20%

Due: Final due date is April 23rd

Description: Exams can be submitted on CULearn from April 11th-April 23rd. Exams must be submitted via CULearn on or before the due date. Request for deferrals must be submitted to the registrar's office. Students must work independently. The exam will take the form of an essay, roughly 6-8 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font Times New Roman. Please do not email me your take-home exam.

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 CULearn website.
2. A make-up activity or discussion 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 an activity or discussion is missed. Students must contact the instructor within 72 hours of a missed activity or discussion 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. The time holder for this course is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:35AM-12:55PM. Classes will not be held live, and this course is mostly asynchronous. However, if students request, I will hold meetings on certain days (to be announced via the course website) to discuss ideas or answer any questions, and the day and time will accord with the time holder for this course. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are made available during the time that the course is scheduled.
5. Although the course is mostly asynchronous, students should keep up with course readings as per the schedule below. This course is envisioned as a directed study course/seminar with peer participation. This means that students will be responsible in managing their time in approaching textbook material and concepts selected by the professor, who will give indications as to what is most important in them by means of content posted on CULearn. The professor is above all a learning facilitator in this course. The professor is available throughout the semester to meet with students by phone

or online in order to clarify and discuss the course materials. It is strongly recommended that students consult with her as needed.

Class Schedule: Each unit contains required readings (listed below) and one or more of the following: voice over PowerPoint lectures, YouTube videos, links to webpages for additional reading, and activities. The additional resources, which you are required to read, listen to, etc., can be found in the folder for the specified unit on CULearn, and will be released at least 48 hours before the start of the unit, and no more than 72 hours before the start of the unit. This is to ensure that students are contributing to discussions and learning material at the same pace.

Unit 1: Mind, World, and Knowledge

Dates: September 9th-October 1st

Readings: Blackmore, Section One and Section Two

Discussion due anywhere between September 21st-September 25th

Unit Activity due no later than October 1st

Unit 2: Consciousness and Personal Identity

Dates: October 2nd-November 3rd

Reading week: October 26th-30th

Readings: Blackmore, Section Three

Discussion due anywhere between October 19th-October 23rd

Unit Activity due no later than November 3rd

Unit 3: Neuroscience and Consciousness

Dates: November 4th-November 23rd

Readings: Blackmore, Section Four

Discussion due anywhere between November 16th-November 20th

Unit Activity due no later than November 23rd

Unit 4: Evolution and Animal Consciousness

Dates: November 24th-December 11th

Readings: Blackmore, Section Five

Discussion due anywhere between December 4th-December 11th

Unit Activity due no later than December 11th

Unit 5: Artificial Consciousness

Dates: January 12th-January 27th

Readings: Blackmore, Section Six

Discussion due anywhere between January 11th-January 15th

Unit Activity due no later than January 27th

Unit 6: Borderlands of Consciousness

Dates: January 28th-February 14th

Holiday: February 15th

Reading week: February 16th-19th

Readings: Blackmore, Section Seven

Discussion due anywhere between February 8th-February 12th

Unit Activity due no later than February 14th

Unit 7: Altered States of Consciousness

Dates: February 20th-March 8th

Readings: Blackmore, Section Eight

Discussion due anywhere between March 1st-March 5th

Unit Activity due no later than March 8th

Unit 8: First-Person Approaches to Consciousness

Dates: March 9th-April 9th

Readings: Blackmore, Section Nine

Discussion due anywhere between March 22nd and March 26th

Unit Activity due no later than April 9th

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

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Etc.

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:

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 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 an accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodations arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadlines to request accommodations for the formally - scheduled exam (if applicable).

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally 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 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.

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/>
-

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

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

