

Thinking and Knowing: FYSM 1607 A  
Fall/Winter 2021/22  
Syllabus

**Instructor Information**

**Course instructor:** Nalini Ramlakhan, PhD

**E-mail:** naliniramlakhan@cunet.carleton.ca

**Office hours: Winter 2022** Virtual hours every Tuesday  
from 4:00PM-5:00 PM

**Course Information**

Fall/Winter 2021/22, Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:05AM-11:25PM

**Course title:** Thinking and Knowing

**Course number:** 1607 A

**Delivery:** Hyflex

**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:**

Brightspace will be used for access to the weekly course content, grades, announcements, etc. It is recommended that students regularly check Bright Space for course updates and other information. Students are responsible for keeping current with the information on Bright Space.

**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.

As a first-year seminar, this course will build foundational skills necessary for an undergraduate degree (e.g., writing, organizing, critical thinking, analytical skills). We will work on, and target, specific skills in each unit.

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 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.

The time holder for this course is Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:05AM-11:25AM. This course is blended/hyflex, with most information presented asynchronously online, and some in person or live online workshops. In person and online workshops will be held during class time. See schedule below. We will be using Zoom as our platform for workshops that are held virtually.

### **Course Text**

Blackmore, Susan. *Consciousness* (2nd edition). New York: Oxford University Press, 2012. This textbook is made freely available on Carleton's library portal. If you would like a physical copy, you can purchase it on Amazon or the OUP website:  
<https://global.oup.com/ushe/product/consciousness-9780199739097?cc=ca&lang=en&>

\*Please note there is an updated edition of this book printed by Routledge. However, we will be using the second edition as it is freely accessible to students online, and the information in the second edition is current. However, if you choose to purchase the third edition, be sure to supplement it with the second edition as the third edition, while similar, has fewer chapters and content than the second edition. \*

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.

Articles and other course materials: accessed via Google Scholar, Carleton's Library Portal, or links provided on Bright Space.

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

### **Evaluation**

**Workshop Participation (in person and/or online)**

**Value:** 20%

**Description:** Classes are far more rewarding and effective when students are actively engaged with the material. On specified dates (see course schedule below), 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 2% of this grade will be awarded per workshop per term (10% per term). Some are online and some are in person, and each workshop targets a different topic and skill. You are welcome and encouraged to attend more than 5 workshops per term, and attend both in person and online workshops, as both types of workshops add to the development of multiple skills and knowledge. In order to accommodate students who are not attending campus, there are more online workshops than there are in-person. Additional in-person workshops may be added to the course schedule. Students will be provided with at least one week's notice should this occur. Further instructions will be provided in class and on Bright Space.

### **Journal Entries**

**Value:** 10%

**Description:** After each workshop attended, you are asked to write a one-page, double-spaced journal entry, detailing one or some of the following: what you learned, what you contributed, what a peer taught you, your progress in the course, a general reflection on the topics discussed in the workshop, or what you appreciated most about the workshop. At the end of each semester, students will submit their 5 best entries per term in a single PDF document. Each entry is worth 1%, for a total of 10% (5% per term). Further instructions will be provided in class and on Bright Space.

### **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%. 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 Bright Space. The due date for each unit's activity is listed below (see schedule). See 'Notes' for missed activities.

### **Final Paper Outline**

**Value:** 5%

**Due:** February 18<sup>th</sup>

**Description:** You are required to write a final paper for this course (see below). In order to assist with the process, you will work on an outline and receive feedback on it. Further instructions will be provided in class and on Bright Space. Students will receive feedback on their outline no later than February 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Final Paper Draft**

**Value:** 10%

**Due:** March 15<sup>th</sup>

**Description:** After receiving feedback on your outline, you will write a draft of your final paper in order to assist with your final version. Further instructions will be provided in class and on Bright Space. Students will receive feedback on their drafts no later than March 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Final Paper**

**Value:** 15%

**Due:** Final due date is April 12<sup>th</sup>

**Description:** Final papers can be submitted on Bright Space from April 1<sup>st</sup>-April 12<sup>th</sup>. Papers must be submitted via Bright Space on or before the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted for this evaluation. Papers should be roughly 5-7 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point or a similar font (1250-1750 words). Further instructions will be provided in class and on Bright Space.

### **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 activity 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 is missed. Students must contact the instructor within 48 hours of a missed activity 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. There will be ample time to work on assignments. The professor is available throughout the semester to meet with students. 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, optional discussion boards, and activities. The course resources, which you are required to read, listen to, etc., can be found in the folder for the specified unit on Bright Space, 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.

### **Unit 1: Mind, World, and Knowledge**

#### **Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday September 29<sup>th</sup>**

09/08: Asynchronous learning (see content on Bright Space)

Introduction to the course/navigating Bright Space

*Readings:* Blackmore, Introduction and Chapter 1

09/13: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore, Chapter 2

09/15: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore, Chapters 2 and 3

09/20: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore, Chapters 3 and 4

09/22: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore, Chapters 4-6

#### **Unit 1 Activity due**

09/27: In-person workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore, Chapters 4-6

09/29: In-person workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore, Chapters 4-6

### **Unit 2: Consciousness and Personal Identity**

#### **Monday October 4<sup>th</sup>- Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup>**

10/04: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore, Chapter 7

10/06: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore, Chapter 7

10/11: *Holiday: No class*

10/13: In-person workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore, Chapters 8 and 9

10/18: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore, Chapters 8 and 9

10/20: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore, Chapters 8 and 9

### **Unit 2 Activity due**

10/25 and 10/27: *Reading Week: No classes*

### **Unit 3: Neuroscience and Consciousness**

#### **Monday November 1<sup>st</sup>-Monday November 15<sup>th</sup>**

11/01: In-person workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 10

11/03: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 11

11/08: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 11

11/10: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 12

11/15: In-person workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 12

### **Unit 3 Activity due**

### **Unit 4: Evolution and Animal Consciousness**

#### **Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup>-Friday December 10<sup>th</sup> (classes follow a Monday Schedule)**

11/17: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 13

11/22: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 13

11/24: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 14

11/29: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 14

12/01: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 15

12/06: In-person workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 15

12/08: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 15

**Unit 4 Activity due**

12/10: In-person workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 15

## Winter 2022 Course Schedule

### **Unit 5: Artificial Consciousness**

#### **Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>-Monday January 31<sup>st</sup>**

01/10: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 16

01/12: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 16

01/17: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 16

01/19: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 17

01/24: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 17

01/26: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 18

01/31: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 18

#### **Unit 5 Activity due**

### **Unit 6: Borderlands of Consciousness**

#### **Wednesday February 2<sup>nd</sup>-Wednesday February 16<sup>th</sup>**

02/02: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 19

02/07: In-person workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 19

02/09: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 20

02/14: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 21

02/16: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 21

### **Unit 6 Activity due**

02/21: *Holiday: No class*

02/23: *Reading Week: No class*

### **Unit 7: Altered States of Consciousness**

#### **Monday February 28<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>**

02/28: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 22

03/02: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 22

03/07: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 22

03/09: In-person workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 23

03/14: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 23

03/16: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 24

### **Unit 7 Activity due**

### **Unit 8: First-Person Approaches to Consciousness**

#### **Monday March 21<sup>st</sup>-Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>**

03/21: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 25

03/23: In-person workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 25

03/28: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapter 26

03/30: Asynchronous learning

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapters 26 and 27

**Unit 8 Activity due**

04/04: Time provided to work on final paper

04/06: Time provided to work on final paper

04/11: Live online workshop

*Readings:* Blackmore Chapters 26 and 27

**\*If the instructor or TA (if one is assigned) is unwell on the day of an in-person workshop and unable to attend campus, please note that the workshop will be held online. At least 12 hours notice will be provided for these circumstances. \* If changes need to be made to the workshop schedule, students will be provided with at least 1 week's notice. There may be additional workshops added to the schedule. If this is the case, students will be provided with one week's notice.**

### **Additional Information**

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca)

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

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

### ***Request 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**

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Religious obligation** Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](https://carleton.ca/pmc)

#### **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 is 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: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support) 5

**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 must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

#### **Copyright policy**

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). The PowerPoint presentations, lecture videos, lectures notes, and other materials available to you on Brightspace may not be distributed online.

<b>Resources (Carleton University: 613-520-2600)</b>	2201 DT (Dunton Tower)
Department of Cognitive Science (ext. 2522)	cogsci@carleton.ca
<a href="https://carleton.ca/cognitivescience/">https://carleton.ca/cognitivescience/</a>	
Registrar's Office (ext. 3500)	300 Tory
<a href="https://carleton.ca/registrar/">https://carleton.ca/registrar/</a>	registrar@carleton.ca
Student Academic and Career Development Services (ext. 7850)	302 Tory
<a href="https://carleton.ca/career/for-facultystaff/how-can-you-support-career-development/">https://carleton.ca/career/for-facultystaff/how-can-you-support-career-development/</a>	career@carleton.ca
Paul Menton Centre (ext. 6608)	501 University Centre
<a href="https://carleton.ca/pmc/">https://carleton.ca/pmc/</a>	PMC@Carleton.ca
Writing Tutorial Service (ext. 1125)	4th floor Library
<a href="https://carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/">https://carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/</a>	csas@carleton.ca
Learning Support Services (ext. 1125)	4th floor Library
<a href="https://carleton.ca/csas/learning-support/">https://carleton.ca/csas/learning-support/</a>	csas@carleton.ca

### **Academic advising**

During the fall term 2021, please contact undergraduate and graduate advisors by e-mail.

Undergraduate advisor:

Melissa Lett: [melissa.lett@carleton.ca](mailto:melissa.lett@carleton.ca)

Graduate advisor:

Uzma Khan: [uzma.khan@carleton.ca](mailto:uzma.khan@carleton.ca)

Advisors can answer questions concerning:

- Course selection and meeting program requirements
- Your audit and transfer credits
- Gaining access to courses that are closed
- Information concerning prerequisites and preclusions
- Course equivalencies and substitutions
- Information about whether to pursue the (Honours Project Course) or the Thesis stream and CGPA requirements
- Community Practicum Course
- Concentrations
- Exchanges and course selection

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

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

