

PHIL 3501A: Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Course Outline

Fall 2020

Class Information

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Time: 10:05-11:25 AM

Location: N/A

Course prerequisites: One course in philosophy or second year standing.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Josh Redstone

Office: 3A38 Paterson Hall

E-mail: josh.redstone@carleton.ca

Course Description

In this class we will survey important concepts, and conceptual issues, within the cognitive science. Since this is a philosophy course, familiarity with cognitive science is not assumed. We will begin by learning about important ideas in cognitive science such as representations, rules, and computation. As we proceed, we will examine conceptual issues related to topics studied by cognitive scientists, including perception, cognition, artificial intelligence, robotics and consciousness. By the end of the course, you will have developed an appreciation and understanding of the role of philosophy in cognitive science.

Required Text

Clark, Andy. (2014). *Mindware: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Cognitive Science, 2nd Edition*. New York: Oxford UP. Note that I may make other readings available on cuLearn as the course progresses.

Accessing Course Resources

Important course materials are to be found on cuLearn (<https://carleton.ca/culearn/>). Such materials include this course outline, lecture schedule, PowerPoint slides or notes that accompany the lectures, and other supplementary materials that may be made available. You will also find the discussion forums, which are a great way for you to ask questions about the course material, share and discuss your own ideas, organize study groups for your tests, and so forth.

You can view my lectures on YouTube

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBOvpBTtLsP7MMjgOZO67Dq>). Since we will not be meeting in person, I highly recommend that everyone watches the lectures I've prepared, where I will explain and elucidate key ideas from our readings. Students can ask questions in the video comments section, or in the discussion board on cuLearn.

Office hours will be held virtually using my Discord Server (<https://discord.gg/NbrGNuD>). Office hours will be held by appointment/as needed. Please don't be shy! I encourage everyone to request an appointment for a virtual meeting at any time if they have any questions or concerns.

Evaluation

Item	Percent of Grade	Tentative Due Date
Critical Response 1	5%	Oct. 3
Critical Response 2	5%	Oct. 16
Take-Home Mid-Term Exam	25%	Nov. 2
Critical Response 3	5%	Nov. 6
Critical Response 4	5%	Nov. 20
Critical Response 5	5%	Dec. 4
Term Paper	20%	Dec. 10
Take-Home Final Exam	30%	Dec. 23
TOTAL	100%	---

Lecture Schedule: Note, this schedule may be subject to minor adjustments.

Date	Lecture Topic & Readings
Week 1 Sept. 10	Lecture 1 (LIVE!): Intro & Course Outline (No Readings)
Week 2 Sep. 15 & 17	Computationalism I (Clark, Ch. 1)
Week 3 Sep. 22 & 24	Computationalism II (Clark, Ch. 2)
Week 4 Sep. 29 & Oct. 1	Rules and Representations (Clark, Ch. 3)
Week 5 Oct. 6 & 8	Connectionism (Clark, Ch. 4)
Week 6 Oct. 13 & 15	Perception and Action (Clark, Ch. 5)
Week 7 Oct. 20 & 22	Robots and Artificial Life (Clark, Ch. 6)
	Fall Break: No Classes!
Week 8 Nov. 3 & 5	Dynamics (Clark, Ch. 7)
Week 9 Nov. 10 & 12	Cognitive Technology (Clark, Ch. 8)
Week 10 Nov. 17 & 19	The Extended Mind (Clark, Ch. 9)
Week 11 Nov. 24 & 26	Perceptual Experience (Clark, Ch. 10)
Week 12 Dec. 1 & 3	Prediction Machines (Clark, Ch. 11)
Week 13 Dec. 8 & 10	Consciousness & (Not Really A) Conclusion (Clark, Ch. 12 & Appendix II)

Live Lecture

The first lecture will be livestreamed on Big Blue Button, which you can access via cuLearn on Sept. 10 at 10:05 am. Other lectures may also be livestreamed, so stay up to date with all announcements pertaining to the lectures.

Critical Responses

In this course you will complete *FIVE* critical responses, each worth 5% of your grade. Each response should be approx. 500 words in length, and any works or ideas referenced must be properly cited. For these critical responses, your task is to identify an interesting idea from one of the lectures and engage with it. I will provide some direction regarding how to choose an idea for your response, and how to cite sources properly, during the first lecture.

Tests and Examinations

In this course you will complete one mid-term exam and one final examination. Each of these are take-home tests, although the details of how you will complete each test differ slightly.

Your mid-term exam is due on November 2 at 11:59 pm. It is worth 25% of your final grade. You will complete the mid-term on cuLearn, and it will feature a variety of questions including true/false, multiple-choice, and short-answer. Although the mid-term is due to be complete at this time, it will be available for you to complete at any point over the fall break in case you choose to complete it then. However, once you begin the test, you'll have limited time (90 minutes) to complete it.

Your final exam is due in MS Word format on cuLearn by December 23 at 11:59 pm, which is the last day of the examination period. It is worth 30% of your final grade. Your task will be to choose certain questions from a set of questions that I will provide and answer the requisite number of questions in essay format. I will provide the questions, and precise instructions for your take-home final exam, on the last day of class (Dec. 10).

Term Paper

In this class you will complete a term paper which is to be handed in via cuLearn by December 10 at 11:59 pm (our last day of class). It is worth 20% of your final grade. The paper is to be approx. 1500 words long and should deal with an idea or concept from this class that interests you. I will discuss how to select a topic and how to write a proper paper before the papers are due, so I expect that the essays will be clearly and concisely written, be well-researched, and cite sources properly. I encourage students to contact me if they have any questions about this assignment at any time.

Assignment Deferral Policy

Students who are unable to complete a test or an assignment may ask for a deferral only under two conditions: illness or bereavement. Should you miss a test for these reasons, you must contact me by email within 24 hours of missing the test/assignment due date to request a deferral and arrange to provide me with the appropriate documentation (e.g. doctor's note, etc.).

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional 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, which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor (me). The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of "F" for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

Grading System

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 B = 73-76 C - = 60-62

A = 85-89 B - = 70-72 D+ = 57-59

A - = 80-84 C+ = 67-69 D = 53-56

B+ = 77-79 C = 63-66 D - = 50-52

F Failure. No academic credit

DEF Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. Further details can be found on the next page.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2020-21)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

Evaluation:

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.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or religious obligation:* write to your professor 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 [EDC](#) website.
- *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 your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *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](#).
- *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.
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Important Dates:

Sept. 9	Classes start.
Sept. 23	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 12	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.

Nov. 27	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 11	Last day of fall term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a fall term course.
Dec. 12-23	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 23	All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:

www.carleton.ca/philosophy

520-2110

Registrar's Office:

www.carleton.ca/registrar

520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:

www.carleton.ca/academicadvising

520-7850

Writing Services:

<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

520-3822

MacOdrum Library

<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>

520-2735