

## PHIL 4210 A

### Language & Mind: Situated Cognition

Eros Corazza  
Carleton University  
Department of Philosophy

**Term:** Fall 2011  
**Meetings:** Wednesdays 6:05-7:55 (12 meetings)  
**Venue:** PA 3A36  
**Office:** Paterson Hall 3A41  
**Office h.:** by appointment  
**Phone:** 520-2600 Ext: 2326  
**Email:** eros\_corazza@yahoo.com; eros\_corazza@carleton.ca  
**Web-page:** <http://www//eroscorazza.com>

#### Course Description:

In everyday life we're constantly processing and using information we encounter and/or we have stored in our surroundings. There are three main ways to approach this basic fact: (i) cognition depends not just on the brain but also on the body (the *embodied mind*); (ii) cognitive activities constantly exploit structure in the natural and social world (the *embedded mind*); (iii) the boundaries of cognition expand beyond an organism body (the *extended mind*).

In this seminar we'll investigate and discuss some central aspects of these three approaches.

Readings (in bold the main text you should buy, available at Haven Books on Sunnyside):

**Robbins P. & Aydede M. (eds.) 2009. *The Cambridge Handbook of Situated Cognition*.  
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press**

Hamilton D. (ed.) *Social Cognition: Key Readings*. New York: Psychology Press

Shapiro L. 2010. *Embodied Cognition*. London: Routledge

#### Aims and Objectives:

Through intensive discussions the seminar aims to provide a good understanding of some key notions pertaining to cognitive sciences.

#### Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the module you should be able to:

- **Understand notions** related to cognitive sciences such as: embodied minds, situated cognition, extended mind, mindreading, interpretation, etc.

- **Communication skills:** through essays writing and the feedback you will get on them you will further develop the capacity to present problems and propose solutions to them in a clear, precise and concise way. Through discussions you will also have the opportunity to develop the capacity to speak briefly and clearly on a given subject/problem, to ask questions and requests for clarification, and to contribute constructively to discussion.
- You will have lot of opportunities to **interact** with other students in discussing some of the issues we will be dealing with.

### **Texts Required:**

**Robbins P. & Aydede M. (eds.) 2009. *The Cambridge Handbook of Situated Cognition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press**

### **Requirements:**

It is mandatory to have a Carleton student “connect” account and to register on WebCT.

### **Assignments and Grades:**

One short essay and a final essay

- Short Essay (1500 words maximum) Weight: 30%
- Final Essay (2500 words maximum) Weight: 50%
- **20% of the final grade will depend on class attendance, reading and participation and presentation.**

### **Due Assignment**

- Short Essay: TBA
- Final Essay: Last day of class - Wednesday, November 30, 2011.

### **Essay Topic**

- Yours choice, but should communicate (e.g.: email) your title/topic. The title/topic must be approved.
- The first and second essay must be on different topics.

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies

### **Assignments:**

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by 4:15 on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

### **Deferrals for Term Work:**

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more 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. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

### **Academic Accommodation:**

**For Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC every term to have a Letter of Accommodation sent to the Instructor by their Coordinator. In addition, students are expected to confirm their need for accommodation with the Instructor no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm. If you require accommodations only for formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, you must request accommodations by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term.

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/holy-days/>

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

### **Important Dates:**

Sept. 8	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 21	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall term and two-term courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 7	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 21	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 5	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Dec. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Jan. 4	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 20	Family Day – university closed
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 22	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 5	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Apr. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 6	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 11-24	Final Examinations.

### **Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a> 520-7850
Paul Menton Centre:	500 University Centre <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/pmc">www.carleton.ca/pmc</a> 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/wts">www.carleton.ca/wts</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735