

The syllabi listed here are from the last term during which the course was taught and are posted only as a guide to some of the typical topics the course may cover. Please note that the readings and materials may change from term to term. An updated syllabus for the course for the coming semester will be posted closer to the start of the semester.

Philosophy of Psychology—Phil. 328

Syllabus

John Douard

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Texts: Phil. of Psychology: Contemporary Readings, ed. by Jose Luis Bermudez.
Routledge (Taylor). ISBN: 13:9780415368629.

A Dialogue on Consciousness, by Torin Alter & Robert J. Howell. Oxford U.
Press. ISBN: 13:9780195375305.

THE BOOKS ARE AT BOTH THE UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE AND NEW JERSEY BOOKS. I WANT TO STRESS THAT IF YOU ORDER THE BOOKS ONLINE, THAT'S FINE BUT YOU MUST PAY THE ADDITIONAL COUPLE OF DOLLARS TO HAVE THEM SENT BY EXPEDITED MAIL. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE BOOKS BY THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES, YOU WILL SIMPLY NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE READING. NOTE THAT THERE IS A SHORT READING FOR THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES.

This is a course in philosophy of psychology. Here, that will mean we will study the major theories of mind and explanatory models that are currently at the center of debates about how we should understand our cognitive capacities. This is NOT a course on the philosophy of clinical psychology or the philosophy of psychiatry. You will be required to (1) read central texts on the philosophy of psychology provided in the collection edited by Bermudez, and reading the dialogue on consciousness written by Alter & Howell; (2) write four medium-length papers, roughly 6-8 pages, double-spaced; attend and participate in class discussion. The goals of the course are: (1) To become sufficiently familiar with the major models of explanation and theories of mind that are the focus of work in cognitive psychology that you can think and write critically and creatively about those theories. (2) To learn how to write a straightforward analytical paper that examines an issue in philosophy of psychology. I will email you an essay on how to write a philosophy paper. (3) To learn how to engage in thoughtful and critical conversation with your peers about topics in philosophy of psychology. (4) To contribute toward your preparation for graduate work in either philosophy or psychology.

Course structure and requirements: You will submit four (4) papers, 6-7 double-spaced pages, on the following dates: Sep. 22; Oct. 13; Nov. 3; and Dec. 1.

There will be no exams, but I reserve the right to quiz you at the beginning of each class, which will be counted into your grade. I will only do this if it appears you are not reading the texts. Late assignments will only be accepted if you request permission at least two weeks in advance, and have a good reason for lateness. The late assignment will be due the Saturday following the due date. Finally, late assignments will be graded one grade lower than they would otherwise be graded.

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Because each class is equivalent to one full week of classes, you may miss only one class during the semester, unless you tell me in advance and through the University absence reporting system. Classes will start promptly at 9 am and end promptly at 12 pm.

Full disability policies and procedures are at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlines at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>.

Assignments

9/8	Introduction and readings	Bermudez pp. 1-12
9/15	Pictures of the Mind	Bermudez pp. 17-47
9/22	Pictures of the Mind	Bermudez pp. 51-98 (paper due)
9/29	Pictures of the Mind	Bermudez pp. 101-148
10/6	Pictures of the Mind	Bermudez pp. 151-202
10/13	Commonsense Psychology	Bermudez pp. 205-259 (paper due)
10/20	Mental Representation	Bermudez pp. 263-310
10/27	Theory or Simulation?	Bermudez pp. 313-366
11/3	Cognitive Architecture	Bermudez pp. 369-510 (paper due)
11/10 & 11/17	Cognitive Architecture	Bermudez pp. 513-662.
12/1	Dialogue on Consciousness	Alter & Howell pp. 1-107 (paper due)

There will be no classes on Thanksgiving weekend, November 24, and December 8. There will be no final exam.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM:

Short version: Don't cheat; don't plagiarize!

Long versions:

Cheating on tests or plagiarizing materials in your papers deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on unacknowledged words or ideas that someone else originated. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. A bit like doping in sports. I take cheating very seriously. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be forwarded to the administration. The University's policy on academic integrity is available at

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AIPolicy9012011.pdf>

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I strongly advise you to familiarize yourselves with this document, both for this class and for your other classes and future work. For those of you interested in

philosophical perspectives on everything, there are important issues of justice and virtue raised by plagiarism and cheating.

Rutgers plagiarism policy:

1) Plagiarism is a university offense. Professors are expected to report all instances of plagiarism to the Office of Student Life, which then initiates a review of its own. In other words, in addition to dealing with the course instructor, students who plagiarize must also deal with the University. Students found guilty of plagiarism will have this entered into their record and may be expelled from the university.

2) Plagiarism in most instances is easy to identify and expose. The very force that makes plagiarism easy and tempting to some students--the internet--makes its detection easy. Most professors can locate the source of suspected plagiarism within a few minutes of searching the web. In this context, plagiarism is as much stupidity as it is dishonesty. Students should be aware that all Rutgers professors have access to Turnitin.com, a very effective resource for catching plagiarism.

3) *All parties to plagiarism are considered equally guilty.* If you share your coursework with another student and he or she plagiarizes it, you are considered as guilty as the one who has plagiarized your work, since you enabled the plagiarism to take place. *Under no circumstances should a student make his or her coursework available to another student unless the instructor gives explicit permission for this to happen.*

Note that plagiarism includes the use of another person's work without attribution. Your work should be your own.

Students often assume that because information is available on the Web it is public information that does not need to be formally referenced, and can be used without attribution. This is a mistake. All information and ideas that you derive from other sources, whether written, spoken, or electronic, must be attributed to their original sources. Such sources include not just written or electronic materials, but also people with whom you may discuss your ideas, such as your roommates, friends, or family members. They deserve credit for their contributions too!

Judgments about plagiarism can be subtle. If you have any questions about the matter, please feel free to ask.