Philosophy 360: Philosophical Aspects of Cognitive Science

Instructor: David Rose

Contact: david.rose@rutgers.edu

I. Course Location and Meeting Times

The course meets on the College Avenue Campus in Frelinghuysen Hall, Room B1. The course will meet two times a week, on Monday 3rd period (11:30 p.m.—12:50 p.m.) and Thursday 3rd period (11:30 p.m.—12:50 p.m.).

I will also be holding office hours. They will be from 1:00-2:00 Thursday. My office is located in the philosophy department, 106 Somerset St (Gateway Building), 5th Floor, Room 540. Also, if you need to make an appointment, just send me an email.

II. Course Description:

How might cognitive science inform philosophical issues? This is our guiding question in this course. We'll examine this issue in three areas: moral psychology, epistemology and metaphysics.

III. Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be made available through the course website on Sakai (see Section VIII below for the reading schedule and Section IV below for information on accessing the course website on Sakai)

IV. Sakai Site

The course will have a Sakai site. You will find all of the course readings here, participate in online discussions and you will also be able to keep track of your grade. Additionally, I will post announcements and updates on this page. You can check the Sakai site for this information, but an email will also be sent to you when any information is added to the site. Emails sent through Sakai will be sent to your Rutgers email address. So, if you do not check the Sakai site regularly and primarily use another email aside from your Rutgers one e.g., Google, you should set up the email that you primarily use so that messages sent from Sakai to your Rutgers email account can be forwarded to your primary email address.

The Sakai site can be accessed at:

https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal

You will need your Rutgers NetID and password to access the site.

Important: It is your responsibility to check your email and Sakai to keep up with important information about the course. I will both send emails and post announcements as necessary. Every so often, I may feel the need to send a message elaborating on difficult material presented in the lecture. If I do so, you are responsible for reading it. Also, if there are changes in the syllabus, material to be covered and so forth, I will send a message. So, again, keep up with your emails as it is your responsibility to read them and the material posted on Sakai.

V. Grading and Assignments

A. Online Discussion

Every week or so, I will open an online discussion thread. You will need to post a response and you will also be required to respond to at least two posts by your classmates. You will have three days to post your response once I have opened the thread. After that, you will then have three days to respond to at least two posts by your classmates. Online discussions will make up 30% of your overall grade.

***Important*:** Late online discussion assignments will not be accepted unless you have an appropriate excuse and the relevant documentation (see Section VII below).

B. Short Papers

We'll cover three main areas in this course: moral psychology, epistemology and metaphysics. After we have finished covering an area, you will write a brief response paper. The paper can be on any topic we've covered from the area. It should be no longer than three double-spaced pages and will be due one week after we've completed a section (the final short paper, however, will be due during the final exam period). Short papers will make up 30% of your overall grade.

***Important*:** If you miss class on the day your paper is due, you will *not* be able to turn it in unless you have an appropriate excuse for your absence and the relevant documentation (see Section VII below). I will only accept a hardcopy of the paper which you will turn in at the beginning of class. I will not accept papers via email.

C. Research Paper

In addition to short papers, you will write a research paper. The paper can cover any topic at the intersection of philosophy and cognitive science. This paper will be due during the final exam period and should be no longer than ten double-spaced pages. It will be worth 30% of your overall grade.

***Important*:** If you fail to submit your research paper on the day it is due, you will not be able to turn it in unless you have an appropriate excuse and the relevant documentation (see Section VIII below).

D. Attendance

You are expected to attend class (see Section VI below). For each class I will pass around an attendance sheet for you to sign. I will pass it around within the first ten minutes of class. If you arrive after the attendance sheet has been passed around, you will not be allowed to sign it and will be marked as absent. Attendance will make up 10% of your overall grade.

E. Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit in this course. So, make your work count.

F. Final Grade Calculation

(1) Online Discussion—Worth 30% of the overall grade

(2) Short Papers—Worth 30% of the overall grade

(3) Research Paper—Worth 30% of the overall grade

(4) Attendance—Worth 10% of the overall grade

Your grade will be determined by the following grading scale:

A	B+	B	C+	C	D	F
100% - 90%	89% - 87%	86% - 80%	79% - 77%	76% - 70%	69% - 60%	59% - 0%

VI. Attendance Policy

Here is the attendance statement required by Rutgers: "Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me."

Important: If you miss class, you must fill out the online student absence form and you must print off *two* copies of the form. You will keep one of them for your records and give one to me. And, you must have the appropriate documentation for your absence (e.g., doctor's note) and turn this into me along with the copy of the student absence report. If you do *not* have appropriate documentation of your absence you will *not* be allowed to make up the work you missed on the day you were absent.

VII. Policy on Cheating

You can find the current Academic Integrity Policy for Rutgers here:

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Basically, violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

In this course, **if you cheat, you will fail the course**. You will also be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. There will be *no* exceptions to this policy.

VIII. Tentative Reading Schedule

Thursday, January 21
First Day of Class: Course Overview

Background

Monday, January 25
Required Reading: Turri, J. (2014). Experimental philosophy: Applications.

Buckwalter, W., & Turri, J. (2014). Basic statistics and experimental design.

Moral Psychology

Thursday, January 28
Required Reading: Haidt, J. (2001). The emotional dog and its rational tail: A social intuitionist approach to moral judgment. *Psychological Review, 108,* 814-834.

Additional Reading: Haidt, J., Koller, S., & Dias, M. (2003). Affect, culture and morality, or is it wrong to eat your dog? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology,* 65, 613-628.

Schnall, S., Haidt, J., Clore, G., & Jordan, A. (2008). Disgust as embodied moral judgment. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *34*, 1096-1109.

Monday, February 1
Required Reading: Greene, J. D., Sommerville, R. B., Nystrom, L. E., Darley, J. M., & Cohen, J. D. (2001). An fMRI investigation of emotional engagement in moral judgment. *Science*, 293, 2105-2108.

Greene, J. D., Nystrom, L. E., Engell, A. D., Darley, J. M., & Cohen, J. D. (2004). The neural bases of cognitive conflict and control in moral judgment. *Neuron,* 44, 389-400.

Greene, J.D., Morelli, S., Lowenberg, K., Nystrom, L., & Cohen, J. (2008). Cognitive load selectively interferes with moral judgment. *Cognition*, 107, 1144-1154.

Additional Reading: Duke, A. & Begue, L. (2015). The drunk utilitarian: Blood alcohol concentration predicts utilitarian responses in moral dilemmas. *Cognition,* 134, 121-127.

Valdesolo, P., & DeSteno, D. (2006). Manipulations of emotional context shape moral judgment. *Psychological Science*, 17, 476-477.

Thursday, February 4

Required Reading: Hauser, M. Young, L., & Cushman, F. (2008). Reviving Rawls linguistic analogy: Operative principles and the causal structure of moral actions. In (ed.) Sinnott-Armstrong, W., Moral Psychology Volume 2: The Cognitive Science of Morality: Intuition and Diversity. (pp. 107-143).

Additional Reading: Mikhail, J. (2007). Universal moral grammar: Theory, evidence, and the future. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 11, 143-152.

Monday, February 8

Required Reading: Doris, J. (2002) Lack of Character. Chapter 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Thursday, February 11

Required Reading: Isen, A. M., & Levin, P. M. (1972). The effect of feeling good on helping: Cookies and kindness. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 21, 384-388.

Darley, J. M., & Batson, D. C. (1973). From Jerusalem to Jericho: A study of situational and dispositional variables in helping behavior. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 27, 100-108.

Latane, B., & Darley, J. (1969). Bystander "Apathy". *American Scientist*, 57, 244-268. (**Read pgs. 250 -259 and pgs. 261-265**)

Milgram, S. (1963). Behavioral study of obedience. *Journal of Abnormal Social Psychology*, 67, 371-378.

Monday, February 15

Required Reading: Doris, J. (2002). Lack of Character. Chapter 3. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Thursday, February 18

Required Reading: Doris, J. (2002). Lack of Character. Chapter 4. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Monday, February 22

Required Reading: Kamtekar, R. (2004). Situationism and virtue ethics on the content of our character. *Ethics*, 114, 458-491.

Epistemology

Thursday, February 25
Required Reading: Gettier, E. L. (1963). Is justified true belief knowledge? *Analysis*, 23(6), 121–123.

Monday, February 29
Required Reading: Starmans, C., & Friedman, O. (2012). The folk conception of knowledge. *Cognition*, 124(3), 272–283.

Additional Reading: Nagel, J., San Juan, V., & Mar, R. (2013). Lay denial of knowledge for justified true beliefs. *Cognition*, 129(3), 652-661.

Thursday, March 3
Required Reading: Weinberg, J. S., Nichols, S., & Stich, S. (2001). Normativity and epistemic intuitions. *Philosophical Topics*, 29(1), 429-460.

Monday, March 7
Required Reading: Turri, J. (2013). A conspicuous Art: Putting Gettier to the test. *Philosophers' Imprint*, 13, 1-16.

Thursday, March 10
Required Reading: Nagel, J. (2012). Intuitions and experiments: A defense of the case method in epistemology. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 85(3), 495-527.

Monday, March 21
Required Reading: Stich, S. (2013). Do different groups have different epistemic intuitions? A Reply to Nagel. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 87(1), 151-178

Thursday, March 24
Required Reading: Radford, C. (1966). Knowledge—By examples. *Analysis*, 27(1), 1-11.

Myers-Schulz, B. & Schwitzgebel, E. (2013). Knowing that P without believing that P. *Nous*, 47(2), 371-384.

Additional Reading: Murray, D., Sytsma, J., & Livengood, J. (2013). God knows (But does God believe)? *Philosophical Studies* 166: 83-107.

Monday, March 28

Required Reading: Buckwalter, W., Rose, D. & Turri, J. (forthcoming). Belief through thick and thin. *Nous*.

Additional Reading: Rose, D., & Schaffer, J. (2013) Knowledge entails dispositional belief. *Philosophical Studies*, 166, 19-50.

D. Metaphysics

Thursday, March 31

Required Reading: Korman, D. (2009). Eliminativism and the challenge from folk belief. *Nous*, 43, 242-264.

Monday, April 4

Required Reading: Goldman, A. (forthcoming). Naturalizing metaphysics with the help of cognitive science. In K. Bennett & D. Zimmerman (eds.). Oxford Studies in Metaphysics. (**Read pgs. 1-14**)

Schaffer, J. (forthcoming). Cognitive science and metaphysics: Partners in debunking. In Kornblith, H. & B. McLaughlin (eds.). Goldman and His Critics. (**Read pgs. 1-10 and pgs 15-20**)

Thursday, April 7

Required Reading: Paul. L. A. (2010). Temporal experience. *Journal of Philosophy*, 107, 333-359.

Additional Reading: LePoidevin, R. (2007). The Images of Time: An Essay on Temporal Representation. Chapter 5. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Monday, April 11

Required Reading: Rose, D., & Schaffer, J. (forthcoming). Folk mereology is teleological. *Nous*

Thursday, April 14

Required Reading: Korman, D., & Carmichael, C. (forthcoming). What do the folk think about composition and does it matter? In Rose, D. (ed.). Experimental Metaphysics.

Monday, April 18

Required Reading: Nahmias, E., Morris, S., Nadelhoffer, T., & Turner, J. (2006). Is incompatibilism intuitive? *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 73, 28-53.

Thursday, April 21

Required Reading: Nichols, S. & Knobe, J. (2007) Moral responsibility and determinism: The cognitive science of folk intuitions. *Nous*, 41, 663-685.

Monday, April 25
Required Reading: Hitchcock, C. & Knobe, J. (2009). Cause and norm. *Journal of Philosophy*, 106, 587-612.

Thursday, April 28
Required Reading: Alicke, M., Rose, D., & Bloom, D. (2011). Causation, norm violation and culpable control. *Journal of Philosophy*, 108, 670-696.

Monday, May 2
No Class, work on final papers