

**PHILOSOPHY 491**  
**PHILOSOPHY OF MIND AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:15, Maguire 103  
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*One of the reasons cognitive science is such a land of plenty for philosophers is that so many of its questions—not just the grand bird's-eye view questions but quite proximal, in-the-lab-now questions—are still ill thought out, prematurely precipitated into forms that deserve critical reevaluation. If philosophy is, as my bumper sticker slogan has it, what you're doing until you figure out just what questions to ask, then there is a lot of philosophy to be done by cognitive scientists these days (Dennett, TopiCS, 2009)*

Our goal in this course is to examine some core issues in the philosophy of mind and cognitive science that deserve the critical evaluation suggested by Daniel Dennett. We will examine a wide range of issues in the cognitive sciences, but our overview will not and cannot be complete. The things that we read should make it clear, though, why philosophy must play a critical role in cognitive scientific research programs.

**Requirements:** You will be expected to make consistent contributions to the discussion in class (**30% of your grade**). Philosophy is a difficult skill that only develops by *working together* to understand difficult issues. In addition, you will be required to submit two short papers (max: 3000 words; abstract max: 150 words). The first will be due on 10/21; **30% of your grade**. The second will be due on 12/16; **40% of your grade**. You may petition to write a single paper (max: 7500 words; abstract max: 300 words); this will require the submission of a paper proposal (due: 10/21, **10% of your grade**) and a final paper (Due: 12/16; **60% of your grade**)

**Grading Criteria:** *In general*, a paper that 1) clearly articulates the claims that are being defended, 2) is well organized, 3) relies on strong evidence and arguments, and 4) is stylistically clear—thereby presenting a competent argument—will receive a 'B' grade (a 'B-' will be weaker in one of these areas—but still satisfactory—and a 'B+' will excel in one of these areas). A 'C' grade will be awarded where a paper is weak in one or two of these categories; a 'D' grade will be awarded where a paper is weak in 3 or 4 categories or omits one altogether (e.g., by lacking a thesis or lacking arguments for the truth of that thesis). An 'A' grade is awarded where a paper excels in each category, exhibiting a clear capacity for *doing philosophy*.

**Paper deadlines:** All paper deadlines are firm. Late papers will automatically be penalized 1/3 of a grade (A- to a B+, B+ to a B, etc) for each day that they are late.

**Appealing a grade:** You can appeal any grade that you feel does not accurately represent the work you have done. All appeals for re-evaluation must be made in writing, no more than two weeks after your paper is returned, and must provide a compelling argument for raising the grade. A re-evaluation is no guarantee of a better grade, and it can even result in a lower grade if you do not offer a compelling case for raising your grade.

**The honor code:** The Georgetown University Honor pledge requires you to be honest in your academic endeavors and to hold yourself to the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life. I expect you to be familiar with the letter and the spirit of this pledge; and, I will enforce the Honor Code by reporting any and all suspected cases of academic dishonesty.

**Tentative Course reading schedule:**

10 Jan	<b>Introduction</b>
15-17 Jan	<b>Turing</b> , "Computing machinery and intelligence" (focus on Sections 1-5, 7) <b>Searle</b> , "Minds, Brains, and programs" (Up through the replies) <b>Newell &amp; Simon</b> , "Computer Science as Empirical Inquiry"
22-24 Jan	<b>Chomsky</b> , "Of minds and language" <b>**Jackendoff</b> , "Language" (Optional: <b>Tomasello</b> , "Language is not an instinct")
29-31 Jan	<b>Margolis &amp; Lawrence</b> "Concepts" (SEP)
5-7 Feb	<b>Van Gelder</b> , "What might cognition be if not computation" <b>Brooks</b> , "Intelligence without representation"
12-14 Feb	<b>**Thagard</b> , "Cognitive Architecture" (Optional: <b>Clark</b> , "Microcognition", Focus on sections 5, 9-11)
19-21 Feb	<b>**Standage &amp; Trappenberg</b> , "Cognitive neuroscience"
26-28 Feb	<b>**Shettleworth</b> , "Animal cognition" <b>Heyes</b> , "Simple minds"
12-14 March	<b>**Lycan</b> , "Consciousness" <b>Dennett</b> , "Quining Qualia"
19-21 March	<b>**Prinz</b> , "Emotion" <b>Griffiths &amp; Scarantino</b> , "Emotions in the wild"
26 March	<b>**O'Callaghan</b> , "Perception" (Optional: <b>Akins</b> , "Of sensory systems and the aboutness of mental states")
2-4 April	<b>**Pacherie</b> , "Action"
9-11 April	<b>Montague &amp; Quartz</b> , "Computational approaches to neural reward and development" <b>Quartz</b> , "Reason, emotion and decision-making"
16-18 April	<b>Sutton</b> , "Memory" <b>Buckner &amp; Carroll</b> , "Self-projection and the brain" <b>Boyer</b> , "Evolutionary Economics of Mental Time Travel"
23-25 April	<b>**Clark</b> , "Embodied, embedded, and extended cognition" <b>Kosslyn</b> , "On the Evolution of Human Motivation"