

PHL 335: Philosophy of Psychology
Fall 2018

Instructor: Matthew Katz
Email: katz1ma@cmich.edu
Phone: 774-1894

Office: Anspach 242
Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00,
and by appt.

Course Description: In this class we will consider some of the most central areas of concern in the philosophy of psychology. For example: What is the relationship between “common-sense” psychology and scientific psychology? Is the mind a computer, and if so, what kind? Do we know anything innately, or is everything learned? Is the mind just one system, or is it a bunch of inter-related systems? We will also consider the nature of artificial intelligence, and its relationship to humanity – either beneficial, or, possibly catastrophic. Requirements will include regular short reading responses, one short paper, one longer paper, two regular exams, and one final exam.

Required Text:

1. All readings will be posted to Blackboard.

Requirements:

Reading responses: 10%
First paper 15%
First exam 15%
Second exam 15%
Second paper 20%
Final exam: 25%

Academic Integrity: Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with CMU’s Policy on Academic Integrity, which can be found at: http://academicsenate.cmich.edu/NonCad/ACADEMIC_INTEGRITY_POLICY.pdf.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: CMU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities, or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the office of Student Disability Services (Park Library 120, telephone 989-774-3018, TDD #2568), and then contact the professor as soon as possible.

Electronics: You are welcome to take notes on a laptop or tablet, but if you choose to do so you must sit in the very back row of the classroom. Please refrain from using cell phones during class.

Tentative Schedule:

I. Folk Psychology and its Detractors

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Reading:</u>
8/27	• Introduction (no reading)
8/29	• Watson, “Psychology as the Behaviorist Views It” • Chomsky, “A Review of B. F. Skinner’s <i>Verbal Behavior</i> ”
9/3	• NO CLASS – Labor Day
9/5	• Ryle, “Knowing How and Knowing That”
9/10	• Fodor, “The Language of Thought: First Approximations”
9/12	• Fodor, “The Persistence of the Attitudes” (pp.1–16)
9/17	• Cummins, “‘How does it work?’ vs. ‘What are the Laws?’”
9/19	• Fodor, “The Persistence of the Attitudes” (pp.16–26)
9/24	• Stich, “Autonomous Psychology and the Belief–Desire Thesis”
9/26	• REVIEW
10/1	• FIRST EXAM

II. Computationalism, Nativism, and Modularity

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Reading:</u>
10/3	• Ramsey, et al., “Connectionism, Eliminativism, ...”
10/8	• Camp, “Thinking with Maps”
10/10	• Wynn, “Evidence Against Empiricist Accounts...”
10/15	• Maley, “Analog Neural Computation”
10/17	• Picinnini and Bahar, “Neural Computation...”
10/22	• Fodor, “Précis of <i>The Modularity of Mind</i> ”
10/24	• Fodor, “Central Systems”
10/29	• Carruthers, “On Fodor’s Problem”
10/31	• REVIEW
11/5	• SECOND EXAM

III. Artificial Intelligence (and the End of the World?)

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Reading:</u>
11/7	• Kurzweil, “Superintelligence and Singularity”
11/12	• Copeland, “Can a Machine Think?”
11/14	• Copeland, “Freedom”
11/19	• Copeland, “Consciousness”
11/21	• Chalmers, “The Singularity: A Philosophical Analysis”
11/26	• Bostrom, “The Superintelligent Will”
11/28	• Armstrong, et al., “Thinking Inside the Box”
12/3	• Schneider, “Alien Minds”
12/5	• REVIEW