

**PHIL5350/PHIL7350 Seminar on Contemporary Anglo-American Philosophy:
Consciousness Studies**

Course Outline

Mode of Teaching: Face-to-face Teaching

Term: 2025-26 Term 1

Time : Monday 18:30-21:30

Location : WMY 502

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course aims at an in-depth discussion of selected issues and figures in contemporary Anglo-American thought. The specific content of the course may vary from semester to semester and may cover such writers as Carnap, Davidson, Dennett, Dummett, Dworkin, Fodor, Kripke, MacIntyre, McDowell, Nagel, Nozick, Parfit, Putnam, Quine, Rawls, Rorty, Russell, Sellars, Taylor and Wittgenstein, among others. Students may repeat the course for credit, provided that two courses with identical course codes are not elected in the same semester.

Topics/Schedule (Tentative)

Part One. Background and Framework
Introduction and historical background
Philosophical background
Conceptual frameworks

Part Two. Theories of Consciousness
Theory of global workspace and theory of multi drafts
Biological theory
Higher-order representation
First-order representation
Self-representation
Theory of virtual reality

Part Three. Comparative Approaches
Phenomenology
Varieties of Hindu and Buddhist theories
Altered states of consciousness

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Demonstrate a solid grasp of the issues discussed.
2. Analyze and critically interpret some significant primary texts in contemporary Anglo-American Philosophy.
3. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to conduct independent research on the topics covered and related issues.

Learning activities

In this course, you are expected to

- Attend the lectures and tutorials.
- Study the readings assigned and try to think through them;
- Develop the skills mentioned above through discussion and writing (short essays and final paper).
- Attend all lectures/tutorials and arrive prepared to discuss the readings and participate in class discussion.

Types of activities and workload:

In-class:

1. Lecture: 3 hours a week (mandatory)

*Out-of-class:

1. Reading: an average of 4-5 hours per week on required and suggested reading assigned for lecture topics, and 2-3 hours on tutorial reading assignments and presentation.
2. Essay writing: an average of 2-3 hour per week on preparing and writing your essay assignments throughout the term. You should arrange your time so as to apportion more hours on writing.

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Final paper	5000 words	50%
Mid-term reflection paper	2000 words	25%
Presentation/discussion		25%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Details of course website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

Recommended learning resources (Tentative)

Required Readings

Blackmore, Susan. *Consciousness: a very short introduction*. Oxford, UK; New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 2005. (ebook available at CUHK library)

Revonsuo, Antti. *Consciousness: the science of subjectivity*. New York, NY: Psychology Press, 2010. (ebook available at CUHK library)

More articles and book chapters to be distributed in class

Chalmers, David J., *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, ed. by David J. Chalmers, OUP, 2002.

Churchland, Paul M., "The Rediscovery of Light," *Journal of Philosophy* 93 (1996): 211-28.

Crane, Tim, "The Origins of Qualia", *The History of the Mind-Body Problem*, eds. By Tim Crane and Sarah Patterson, Routledge, 2000.

Dretske, Fred, "Conscious Experience", *Mind*, New Series, Vol. 102, No. 406 (1993): 263-283.

Kriegel, Uriah, "The Self-representational Theory of Consciousness", *Subjective Consciousness: A Self-Representational Theory*, OUP, 2009.

Metzinger, Thomas, "Précis: Being No One", *Psyche* 11 (5), 2005.

Nagel, Thomas, "What is it like to be a bat?", *The Philosophical Review*, LXXXIII, 4 (1974): 435-50.

Rosenthal, David. "A Theory of Consciousness", *Report 40/1990*, Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), Universität Bielefeld, Germany.

Strawson, Galen, "Realistic Monism: Why Physicalism Entails Panpsychism", OUP 2008

Yao, Zhihua. *The Buddhist Theory of Self-Cognition*. London and New York: Routledge, 2005

AI tool usage guide

Use only with explicit acknowledgement

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Teacher	
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Telephone:	
Email:	

TA	
Name:	
Office location:	
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Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.