
University of Waterloo
Department Psychology
PSYCH 461
Hon Sem Cog Neurosci (Phi – A Novel Introduction to Consciousness)
S2018
Wed 14:30-17:20, PAS 4032

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Britt Anderson
Office: PAS 4039
Office Phone: 33056
Office Hours: By arrangement
Email: britt@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description

An introduction to the neuroanatomy and neurophysiology of higher cognition that will use these neural facts to frame the philosophical positions on the nature of consciousness. The basic approach will be via a careful reading and discussion of the novel *Phi* by Giulio Tononi and any necessary ancillary materials.

Required Text

- Phi. A voyage from brain to soul. Giulio Tononi (<http://knopfdoubleday.com/2012/08/08/phi-a-voyage-from-the-brain-to-the-soul-by-giulio-tononi/>)

Readings Available on LEARN

- During the course we may develop links and materials that we will save and access through Learn, but most should be available directly from the internet.

Course Assessments

Information on course requirements and assessments.

Assessment	Weighting
In class participation	20%
Facilitator	20%
Three P assignment	20%
Final Examination (Written ~ 60 min)	40%
Total	100%

Assessment Details:

1. In class participation. Each week (except for the first and the last) I will give each student a two check mark assessment. These are summary marks for each week. In general, a zero would mean that you were absent when called. One check would reflect that you were present, but seem ill-prepared, e.g. you

had not read the relevant chapters, or reviewed background material, and so could not contribute to the discussion. Two check marks is given if you are present and prepared. You don't have to be “brilliant” in your commentary; just solid in your preparation and active in participating in the discussion.

2. Facilitator. Each student will be the facilitator one time, for one chapter. It is expected that a chapter discussion will run around an hour. You will of course need to know the chapter and material when you are facilitating, but more important will be whether you are successful in fostering a wide and active participation by your classmates, and whether there is evidence that people are getting the point. Are your classmates understanding the issues and materials. In addition, you should contribute a list of questions and links for your chapter (examples of what this means will be shown in class).

3. Three P's. As will soon become apparent, this book uses historical **P**eople, **P**aintings, and **P**oetry to advance the story and to make the scientific points accessible and interesting. For this assessment you will need to pick a pertinent theme (approved by me) that is either explicitly or implicitly raised in the book and provide a concise history of an historical personage that illustrates this theme. The person should not be one already in the book, but the people in the book will serve as examples of the kinds of people that would work. Similarly, you will select a painting that also illustrates this idea/person, perhaps with one of the subtle alterations that Tononi uses, and either write or identify an appropriate poem. Again, the painting and poem must *not* be ones used in the book. They should be new, but of the same ilk. In writing them up, you need to explain how they “work” in support of commenting and highlighting the theme you selected. Hopefully, we will find some time at the end of term to have a bit of “show and tell” when we can learn from and enjoy what each other have found.

4. Final (Written) Examination. This should take no more than one hour. There will be a smattering of short answer or factual questions. There should be no difficulty answering these if you attended class and read the book. In addition, there will be two longer form questions (that you will select from a list of four or five) that you can think of as short essay, but where there will be a two page blue book constraint. Last time I offered this course I used a one on one half-hour oral exam for the final. Anyone feeling that they would prefer this option should let me know. If the numbers are not too large, I should be able to accomodate.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Content
1	General Orientation Reading of the Preface Discussion begins
2	Chapters 1, 2, and 3
3	4,5,6,7
4	8,9,10,11
5	12,13,14,15

Week	Content
6	16,17,18
7	19,20,21
8	22,23,24
9	25,26,27
10	28,29,30
11	31,32,33
12	Hopefully a review of students' 3P projects

Late Work

Late work is not accepted.

Electronic Device Policy

Please bring your devices. Great to be able to look up a source or fact during discussions.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is voluntary, but part of your grade is based on participation. If you are absent, you can't participate obviously.

Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).

Grievance:

Informal Stage. We in the Psychology Department take great pride in the high quality of our program and our instructors. Though infrequent, we know that students occasionally find themselves in situations of conflict with their instructors over course policies or grade assessments. If such a conflict arises, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs (Richard Eibach) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor: Email: reibach@uwaterloo.ca; Ph 519-888-4567 ext. 38790

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#).

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Other sources of information for students

[Academic integrity](#) (Arts) [Academic Integrity Office](#) (uWaterloo)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services office](#), located in Needles Hall Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the

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