



Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul

FACULDADE DE FILOSOFIA E CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS

PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM FILOSOFIA

SYLLABUS

COURSE: Introduction to Neurophilosophy

CODICRED: 61601-03

INSTRUCTORS: Professors Dr. Nythamar de Oliveira & Dr. Norman Madarasz

CREDITS: 3.0 45 h YEAR/SEMESTER: 2015/1

Tuesdays at 9 a.m. Room 309 Building 40 (Museum of Science & Technology)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will begin with a brief introduction to the philosophy of mind, especially the theory of mind-body dualism and the views that the mind and body are two distinct substances. We will then explore some of the major problems and key concepts of a philosophy of neuroscience, neurophilosophy, and neuroethics. Just like the discussions that took place in analytic philosophy, especially after the "epistemological turn" and the "linguistic turn," neurophilosophy as it has been practiced in the US, the UK, France, Germany and elsewhere, follows very specific guidelines in terms of how to do science and how philosophy relates to cognitive science. We will thus focus on transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary methodological issues in neurophilosophy, so as to highlight some lines of research linking neuroscience and philosophy in Anglo-American and Continental contexts of research. No previous knowledge of philosophy of mind or neurophilosophy is required. All classes, readings and discussions will be conducted in English.

OBJECTIVES:

Besides offering a survey of recent philosophical theories of the mind and brain, we will explore related problems and relevant issues in behaviorism, naturalism, materialism, eliminativism, functionalism, artificial intelligence, neuroethics, neurophenomenology, and theories of emotions, consciousness, self, and normativity, in light of selected readings from both analytic and continental authors such as Daniel Dennett, Hilary Putnam, Antonio Damasio, Merleau-Ponty, Patricia & Paul Churchland, Jean-Pierre Changeux, Jesse Prinz, Shaun Gallagher, and Dan Zahavi.

METHODOLOGY:

This class will be run seminar-style. Each instructor will lead the meetings every other week throughout the semester, and students will be encouraged to take part in discussions and present papers or serve as commentators. Student presentations will be similar to our workshop and class presentations, in which a mini-paper about the reading may be presented or an original contributing paper. Afterwards, fellow students will comment on the presentation.

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GRADING POLICY:

Grades are based on point accumulation throughout the fifteen weeks, comprising class participation (by attending classes, raising questions, sharing students' views, insights, comments, and criticisms with classmates), quizzes (multiple-choice or truth/false), short essays and/or research paper.

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Appiah, K.A. 2008. *Experiments in Ethics*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Bear, Mark, Barry Connors & Michael Paradiso. 2006. *Neuroscience: Exploring the Brain* Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. Third edition.
- Bickle, John (editor) 2008. *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Neuroscience*. Oxford University Press.
- Bunge, Mario. 2003. *Emergence and Convergence: Qualitative Novelty and the Unity of Knowledge*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Chalmers, David J. 2002. *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. Oxford University Press.
- Changeux, Jean-Pierre & Paul Ricoeur. 1998. *Ce qui nous fait penser. La nature et la règle*. Paris: Odile Jacob. ET: *What Makes Us Think. A Neuroscientist and a Philosopher Argue About Ethics, Human Nature, and the Brain* (2002)
- Changeux, Jean-Pierre. 2005. *Creation, Art and the Brain*. In: Changeux et al. (Eds.) *The Neurobiology of Human Values*. New York: Springer-Verlag, 2005, p. 1-10.
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- Churchland, P. 2008. "The impact of neuroscience on philosophy". *Neuron*, 60, 409-411.
- Churchland, P. M. 1984. *Matter and Consciousness*. Cambridge, MA: Bradford Books, MIT Press.
- Churchland, P. M. 1994. *The Engine of Reason, The Seat of the Soul: A Philosophical Journey into the Brain*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Churchland, P.S., and T. J. Sejnowski. 1992. *The Computational Brain: Models and Methods on the Frontiers of Computational Neuroscience*. Cambridge, MA: Bradford Books, MIT Press.
- Damásio, António. 1999. *The feeling of what happens: Body and emotion in the making of consciousness*. New York: Harcourt Brace.
- Damásio, António. 1994. *Descartes' Error: Emotion, reason, and the human brain*. New York: Putnam.
- Damásio, António. 2010. *Self Comes to Mind: Constructing the conscious brain*. New York: Pantheon Books.
- Damásio, António. 2003. *Looking for Spinoza: Joy, sorrow and the feeling brain*. New York: Harcourt, Inc.



- Dancy, Jonathan. 2000. *Normativity*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell.
- Darwin, Charles. 1872. *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*. New York: New York Philosophical Library. (Reprint, 1960).
- Darwin, Charles. 1980. *Metaphysics, Materialism, and the Evolution of Mind: Early Writings of Charles Darwin*. Transcribed and annotated by Paul H. Barrett with a commentary by Howard E. Gruber. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Darwin, Charles. 1981. *The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- De Sousa, Ronald. 1999. *The Rationality of Emotion*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- De Waal, Frans. 2006. *Primates and Philosophers: How Morality Evolved*. Edited by Stephen Macedo and Josiah Ober. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- De Waal, Frans. 1996. *Good Natured: The Origins of Right and Wrong in Humans and Other Animals*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Dennett, Daniel C. 1991. *Consciousness Explained*. New York: Little Brown.
- Dennett, Daniel C. 1995. *Darwin's dangerous idea: Evolution and the meanings of life*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- Dunbar, Robin I. M. 1998. "The Social Brain Hypothesis." *Evolutionary Anthropology: Issues, News, and Reviews* Volume 6, Issue 5 (1998): 178–190.
- Ekman, Paul. 1972. *Emotions in the Human Face*. New York: Pergamon Press.
- Gallagher, Shaun and Dan Zahavi. 2008. *The Phenomenological Mind: An Introduction to Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science*. Routledge.
- Glannon, Walter. 2011. *Brain, Body, and Mind: Neuroethics with a Human Face*. Oxford U Press.
- Korsgaard, Christine M. 2010. "Reflections on the Evolution of Morality." *The Amherst Lecture in Philosophy* 5 (2010): 1–29.
- Nadelhoffer, Thomas, Eddy A. Nahmias & Shaun Nichols (eds.) 2010. *Moral Psychology: Historical and Contemporary Readings*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Nadelhoffer, Thomas and Walter Sinnott-Armstrong. 2012. "Neurolaw and Neuroprediction: Potential Promises and Perils." *Philosophy Compass* 7/9 (2012): 631–642.
- Nadelhoffer, Thomas, Eddy A. Nahmias, et al. 2006. "Is Incompatibilism Intuitive?" *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. Vol. LXXIII, No. 1, July 2006.
- Nichols, Shaun. 2010. "Emotions, norms, and the genealogy of fairness." *politics, philosophy & economics* 9 (1): 1-22.
- Prinz, Jesse. 2002. *Furnishing the Mind: Concepts and Their Perceptual Basis*. MIT Press.
- Prinz, Jesse. 2004a. *Gut Reactions: A Perceptual Theory of Emotion*. Oxford University Press.
- Prinz, Jesse. 2011. "Is Morality Innate?," in W. Sinnott-Armstrong (ed.), *Moral Psychology*. Oxford University Press.
- Prinz, Jesse. 2012. *The Conscious Brain*. Oxford University Press.
- Prinz, Jesse. 2004. *The Emotional Construction of Morals*. Oxford University Press.
- Protevi, John. 2009. *Political Affect: Connecting the Social and the Somatic (Posthumanities)*. University of Minnesota Press.
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Putnam, Hilary. 1975. "The Meaning of 'Meaning'." In *Mind, Language and Reality*. Philosophical Papers, Volume 2. Cambridge University Press.
Quante, Michael. 2005. "Quality of Life Assessment and Human Dignity: Against the Incompatibility-Assumption." *Poiesis and Praxis* 3 (3): 168-180.
Quante, Michael. 2007. "The social nature of personal identity." *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 14 (5-6): 56-76.
Quante, Michael. 2010. "The Structure of Perception in Particularist Ethics". *Ethical Perspectives* 17 (1): 5-39.
Railton, Peter. 2003. *Facts, Values, and Norms: Essays Toward a Morality of Consequence*. Cambridge University Press.
Rose, Nikolas. 2006. *The Politics of Life Itself: Biomedicine, Power, and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
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Searle, John. 1984. "Can Computers Think?" In: *Minds, Brains and Science*. Reith Lectures. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
Searle, John. 1995. *The Construction of Social Reality*. New York: Free Press.
Smith, Barry. 2006a. "Publicity, Externalism and Inner States." In *What Determines Content: The Internalism/Externalism Dispute*. Ed. Tomas Marvan.
Smith, Barry. 2006b. "Davidson, Interpretation and First-Person Constraints on Meaning." *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, Vol.14, No.3 (2006): 385-406.

Reading Assignments:

[Norman Madarasz]

J. Fodor, *LOT2: the Language of Thought Revisited*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

R. Jackendoff, *A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

C. R. Gallistel and A. P. King, *Memory and the Computational Brain: Why Cognitive Science will Transform Neuroscience*. New York: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

[Nythamar de Oliveira]

Churchland, Patricia S. 2011. *Braintrust: What neuroscience tells us about morality*. Princeton U Press.

Dunbar, Robin I. M. 1998. "The Social Brain Hypothesis." *Evolutionary Anthropology: Issues, News, and Reviews* Volume 6, Issue 5 (1998): 178–190.

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Prinz, Jesse. 2004. *The Emotional Construction of Morals*. Oxford University Press.



[Fabricio Pontin]

Sen, Armalya. 1982 "Choice, Welfare and Measurement", 41-109 ; 134-203; 432-450

Nowak, MA et al. "Fairness versus Reason in the Ultimatum Game". Science 289, 1773 (2000);

Knight, Simon. "Rationality vs Anger in Ultimatum Game rejections" in

<http://jeps.efpsa.org/article/view/jeps.an/66>

Andersen, Steffen et al. "Stakes matter in Ultimatum Games"

http://openarchive.cbs.dk/bitstream/handle/10398/8244/ECON_wp1-2011.pdf?sequence=1

Zahavi, Dan. Gallagher, Shaun. " The Phenomenological Mind: an introduction to philosophy of mind and cognitive science", 2007

Tentative Schedule:

Tuesday Mar 10 : Introduction to Neurophilosophy: Self-Introductions, Course Outline, Bibliography, research projects, proposals, recap and results from last semester

Mar 17 : Nythamar, The Social Brain / Fabricio Pontin, "Fairness Perception and the Economical Hypothesis: a limit to ordinalism?"

Mar 24 : Norman, LOT2: the Language of Thought Revisited.

Mar 31 : Norman, LOT2: the Language of Thought Revisited (ctn.) / Fabricio : Sen's Critique of Rational Choice "Rational Fools".

Apr 7 : Fabricio, Sen "Choice, Ordering and Morality" / Augusto Buchweitz (InsCer)

Apr 14 : Nythamar, The Social Brain / Jaderson da Costa (InsCer)

Apr 21 : National Holiday (Tiradentes)

Apr 28 : Norman, Jackendoff, A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning.

May 5 : Fabricio, Phenomenological Mind, Ch. 1-6

May 12 : Nythamar, The Social Brain

May 19 : Norman Jackendoff, A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning(ctn) / Alexandre Franco (InsCer)

May 26 : Nythamar, The Social Brain

Jun 2 : Norman, Gallistel and King, Memory and the Computational Brain: Why Cognitive Science will Transform Neuroscience

Jun 9 : Fabricio, Phenomenological Mind, Ch. 8-9

Jun 16 : Nythamar, The Social Brain

Jun 23 : Fabricio, Phenomenological Mind, Ch. 10 plus original article "Is a transcendental phenomenology of emotions still plausible?"