

SYLLABUS

Class Meetings

Monday/Wednesday, 5:00-6:20pm, PH 111

Contact information

Instructor: Dr. Julien Musolino
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Office hours: by appointment

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REQUIREMENTS

READING

No textbook has been assigned for this course. Instead, required readings (in the form of PDF files) are posted on SAKAI. In addition, I will mention a number of books throughout the class, bearing on various topics that we will discuss, any of which students are welcome to purchase and read. None of these books are required.

EXAMS AND GRADES

Grades will be determined by performance on the following activities:

- **Midterm**

There will be 1 midterm exam taken in class. The midterm is scheduled on **October 21** will cover the first half of the course.

- **Assignments**

There will be four assignments due on **Sept. 25, Oct. 14, Nov. 13, and Dec. 02**. Details will be discussed in class.

- **Final Exam**

The final exam is scheduled on **December 17, 8:00AM-11:00AM** and is CUMULATIVE (i.e., it covers the entire content of the course over the whole semester). For university policy regarding finals exams, please visit:

<http://registrar.rutgers.edu/NB/EXAMRULE.HTM>

- **Attendance**

Attendance will be taken and is linked to the extra credit policy described below.

- **Extra credit**

Students will be given the opportunity to earn extra credit in an amount which will increase their final grade by up to 2%. Extra credit will be based on attendance and calculated in the following manner: a student who does not miss any lectures will get the full 2%, a student who misses 1 lecture will get 1.5%, and a student who misses 2 classes will get 1%. A student who misses 3 lectures will not get any extra credit. Students missing more than 3 lectures will not incur any direct penalties.

Exam format

All exams will have the same format and include some or all of the following activities:

- Multiple choice questions
- True/false
- Fill in the blank
- Short answer

Grades will be computed using the following weights

- Midterm (1/3 of grade)
- Assignments (1/3 of grade)
- Final Exam (1/3 of grade)

Percentages converted to grades

90% - 100%	---	A
87% - 89%	---	B+
80% - 86%	---	B
77% - 79%	---	C+
70% - 76%	---	C
60% - 69%	---	D
59% - 0%	---	F

RESPONSIBILITIES

Exams and assignments

Barring exceptional circumstances, all exams will be taken on the date they are assigned.

Academic Honesty

Students in this class are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and respect. Conduct other than this will be disciplined following procedures detailed in Rutgers University policy on such matters. Academic dishonesty is defined as, but not limited to, plagiarism, harassment, cheating, disrupting behavior, or representing another student's work as your own. For further information on this topic, please visit:

<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>

Religious observances

Rutgers University's policy on accommodations for religious observances or holidays is available at the following site:

<http://registrar.rutgers.edu/NB/ENROL-NB.HTM#religious>

Schedule of Topics, Readings & Exams

Fall 2013

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments & Activities
1	Sept 04	Introduction	
2	Sept 09 Sept 11	PART I: THE BIG PICTURE Body and mind: The basic problem and the main approaches	Reading: The last wall to fall, Steven Pinker
3	Sept 16 Sept 18	Modern minds: The cognitive revolution and the computational brain	Reading: What's in your mind? Zenon Pylyshyn
4	Sept 23 Sept 25	Thinking machines The hidden mind: the role of unconscious cognitive processes	Reading: Do defaults save lives? Assignment 1: Where does morality come from?
5	Sept 30 Oct 02	Lifting the veil Studying the mind: the road to the ivory tower	
6	Oct 07 Oct 09	PART II: THE DETAILS Language: Minds, apples, and Planets	Reading: genes, language, and the nature of scientific explanations
7	Oct 14 Oct 16	Atypical minds: Genes, language, and cognition	Assignment 2: Exploring randomness
8	Oct 21 Oct 23	Midterm Exam Memory: Total recall? Attention: did you see the gorilla?	Reading: The seven sins of memory
9	Oct 28 Oct 30	Decision making: predictably irrational	Reading: A six pack of problems
10	Nov 04 Nov 06	Reasoning: don't believe everything you think	Reading: medical decision making
11	Nov 11 Nov 13	Moral cognition: the science of good and evil	Reading: The new synthesis in moral psychology, Johnathan Haidt Assignment 3: soul searching

12	Nov 18 Nov 20	The hard problem: a look at the problem of consciousness	Reading: The mystery of consciousness
13	Nov 25 Nov 27	<u>PART III: IMPLICATIONS AND CONTROVERSIES</u> Science and mind: making up one's mind when the stakes are really high Thanksgiving – no class	Reading: Childhood origins of adult resistance to science
14	Dec 02 Dec 04	Physical basis of mind: lost souls? Morally responsible machines?	Assignment 4: How free are you? Reading: For the law, neuroscience changes nothing and everything
15	Dec 09 Dec 11	The sum of all fears: Looking for meaning in a material world	Reading: Social Neuroscience and the soul's last stand
	Dec 17	Final Exam (8:00AM-11:00AM)	