

# SYLLABUS

## Class Meetings

Tuesday/Thursday, 5:00-6:20pm, PH 111

## Contact information

Instructor: Dr. Julien Musolino  
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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 **March 10** will cover the first half of the course.

#### - **Assignments**

There will be four assignments due on **Feb. 10** , **Mar. 05**, **Mar. 31**, and **Apr. 21**. Details will be discussed in class.

### - **Final Exam**

The final exam is scheduled on **May 13, 4:00PM-7:00PM** 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

## Spring 2015

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments & Activities
1	Jan 20 Jan 22	<b>Introduction</b> <b><u>PART I: THE BIG PICTURE</u></b>	
2	Jan 27 Jan 29	<b>Body and mind:</b> The basic problem and the main approaches	<b><u>Reading:</u></b> The last wall to fall, -- Steven Pinker
3	Feb 03 Feb 05	<b>Modern minds:</b> The cognitive revolution and the computational brain	<b><u>Reading:</u></b> What's in your mind? -- Zenon Pylyshyn
4	Feb 10 Feb 12	Thinking machines <b>The hidden mind:</b> the role of unconscious cognitive processes	<b><u>Assignment 1:</u></b> Where does morality come from? <b><u>Reading:</u></b> Do defaults save lives?
5	Feb 17 Feb 19	<b><u>PART II: THE DETAILS</u></b> <b>Language:</b> Minds, apples, and Planets	<b><u>Reading:</u></b> How language works – Steven Pinker
6	Feb 24 Feb 26	<b>Atypical minds:</b> Genes, language, and cognition	<b><u>Reading:</u></b> genes, language, and the nature of scientific explanations
7	Mar 03 Mar 05	<b>Memory:</b> Total recall? <b>Attention:</b> did you see the gorilla?	<b><u>Reading:</u></b> Memory – Baddeley, Eysenck, Anderson <b><u>Assignment 2:</u></b> Exploring randomness
8	Mar 10 Mar 12	<b>Midterm Exam</b> <b>Decision making:</b> predictably irrational	<b><u>Reading:</u></b> A six pack of problems
9	Mar 17 Mar 19	<b>No class Spring Break</b>	
10	Mar 24 Mar 26	<b>Reasoning:</b> don't believe everything you think	<b><u>Reading:</u></b> medical decision making
11	Mar 31 Apr 02	<b>Moral cognition:</b> the science of good and evil	<b><u>Assignment 3:</u></b> soul searching <b><u>Reading:</u></b> The new synthesis in moral psychology, Johnathan Haidt

12	Apr 07 Apr 09	<b>The hard problem?</b> A look at the problem of consciousness	<b>Reading:</b> The mystery of consciousness
13	Apr 14 Apr 16	<b><u>PART III: IMPLICATIONS AND CONTROVERSIES</u></b>	<b>Reading:</b> Childhood origins of adult resistance to science
14	Apr 21 Apr 23	<b>Physical basis of mind:</b> lost souls? Morally responsible machines?	<b>Assignment 4:</b> How free are you? <b>Reading:</b> For the law, neuroscience changes nothing and everything
15	Apr 28 Apr 30	<b>The sum of all fears:</b> Looking for meaning in a material world	<b>Reading:</b> Social Neuroscience and the soul's last stand
	May 13	<b>Final Exam (4:00PM-7:00PM)</b>	