

Philosophy of Psychology, PHI 3451, Summer B, 2017

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I do not use Canvas email (email from within the course website). Messages sent through the course website will not be answered, but I do check the listed emails above regularly.

Office hours: Office hours will be held through course chatroom, M/F 10-12 noon. These hours may vary for some during the course, but I will announce any changes online.

Course description

Philosophy of Psychology is an advanced, upper-level course in philosophy. For this reason, and because it is taught in a compressed summer schedule, the pace will be brisk. In this course we will examine the philosophical foundations and assumptions of major schools of psychology, including Cartesian dualism, naturalized approaches to the mind (James), Freudianism, behaviorism (Skinner), developmental psychology (Piaget), and the logic of theory confirmation and disconfirmation. There will also be an optional, extra credit section concerning the ethical issues surrounding lobotomy (psychosurgery).

Prerequisites

Junior standing or above, or permission of instructor. A background in philosophy and/or psychology is strongly recommended.

Required Texts

Excerpts from Owen Flanagan's text, *The Science of the Mind*, 2nd ed., will be available free of charge, through the course website. It is not necessary for you to purchase this text, but you are welcome to do so if you prefer to read your own hard copy. Please make sure you have the second edition of the text. Additional readings may be distributed later in the semester, but those will also be provided without charge.

"W" Mode

This is an "W", or fully online course, meaning that there is no face-to-face interaction. In order to take this course, you must have regular online access, reasonable facility with Canvas, the ability to send and receive e-mail on a regular basis, and basic internet navigating abilities.

Summer B Schedule

Please know that this summer course is only about 6 weeks long, which is a little less than half of a regular semester. Nonetheless, the content and expectations are roughly equivalent, meaning that **the pace of the course has to be about twice that of a regular semester**. Please know this in advance, so that you are prepared for the faster pace.

Grading is based on the following components:

Two Essay-Style Exams (long): 80% (40% each)

5 Online Quizzes (short): 20% (4% each).

Note: I will use the +/- grading system (A, A-, B+, B, B-, etc.)

Requirements

1) Semester Exams. There will be two, long, essay/short-answer style exams during the semester. As with everything else for this course, you will take these online. You will have a period of one week from the time each exam opens (or is available for you to take) and the time the exam is due. Unlike the quizzes, which you must complete in an hour, you will have a week in which to *complete* each exam. Please plan your time accordingly. If you start your exam late, you will not be given extra time to complete it, but you may have whatever remaining time there is before it is due. **I will not accept late exams.** There are **no makeups** for the exams, as you are given a week in which to complete them. A missed exam will result in a score of zero for that exam. You may consult your assigned class materials for these exams, and *only* those materials (the online readings for this course and the instructor commentaries that accompany those readings). External sources are neither permitted nor likely to be helpful to your answers.

2) Quizzes. Through Canvas you will have five short, online quizzes, and one optional, extra credit quiz. These quizzes will not only provide incentive for completing the readings during the week they are assigned, they will also help you to key on the central ideas of each reading. Since the quizzes are meant only to help acquaint you with the reading, they will, understandably, be much shorter and easier than the exams. You may consult your assigned class materials for these exams, and *only* those materials (the online readings for this course and the instructor commentaries that accompany those readings). External sources are neither permitted nor likely to be helpful to your answers. Each quiz will be open only for the week in which the material is covered, not longer, and you will have one hour in which to complete the quiz from the time you start it. Start the quiz at least one hour before it closes as you will not be allowed to finish it if you haven't completed it when it closes. There are no makeups for these quizzes; however, if you elect to take the extra credit quiz on *The Lobotomist* documentary, it can replace your lowest quiz grade (if it is higher than one you wish to replace). This will happen automatically, you do not need to request it, if you take the extra credit quiz. The extra credit quiz will not hurt your grade, no matter how low your score on it; it is truly "extra credit".

3) Email Requirements. In order to complete this course, you must have a functional e-mail account that you check regularly; more specifically, you must regularly check your Knight's email. Some class announcements and some reading materials will be distributed exclusively through e-mail. It is up to you to insure that you receive them, and you are responsible for the contents of class e-mailings. Please note that UCF regards your Knight's email as your official address for your classes and for other information that the university may send you.

4) Class Decorum. Everyone is expected to maintain positive classroom decorum. Disruptive or discourteous behavior, including abusive or disrespectful language toward others, will not be tolerated, and will result in a lower grade, failure, or outright dismissal from the course. Consider what your general behavior and attitude convey about you to those who may know little else about you outside of the online forum of the classroom. With that in mind, please also know that respectful debate, disagreement, and controversy is normal and expected, particularly in a philosophy class. This is my personal policy, and it is consistent with university policy. The

following excerpt from the undergraduate catalogue (Academic Regulations and Procedures) is reproduced here for your information:

"Students are responsible for maintaining classroom decorum appropriate to the educational environment. When the conduct of a student or group of students varies from acceptable standards and becomes disruptive to normal classroom procedures, the instructor has the authority to remove the offending party from the room and refer the student to the Office of Student Conduct (SRC 155) for disciplinary action." [The same obtains for online courses].

5) Attendance Verification. The message below is from The Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs:

“As of Fall 2014, all faculty are required to document students’ academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course.... Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.”

For this course, your attendance will be verified by taking Quiz 1, held during the first week of class.

Makeup policy

There are no makeups, especially since this is an online course, with ample time to complete each graded component. If your situation is truly exigent and can be documented, contact me and I will consider your situation (with no guarantee of leniency or accommodation). You may also wish to consider either dropping the course, or applying for a medical withdrawal, depending on your circumstances.

Course Schedule: (May vary slightly depending on class progress)

Week One (June 26-July 2):

Introduction to Class, Syllabus, [Chapter 1 of Flanagan text “Minds and Bodies: René Descartes...”](#).

Quiz 1 (over Ch. 1) opens Tuesday, June 27, closes Sunday July 2. (Quiz 1 will also count as your attendance verification quiz which is required for all courses for financial aid purposes.)

Week Two (July 3-9):

[Flanagan, Ch. 2, “Naturalizing the Mind”, William James](#)

Quiz 2 (over Ch. 2) , opens Monday, July 3, and closes Sunday, July 9.

Week Three (July 10-16):

[Flanagan, Ch. 3, “Science and the Secret Self”, Freud](#)

Quiz 3 (over Ch. 3), opens Monday, July 10, and closes Sunday, July 16.

***** EXAM 1: Opens Friday, July 14th, closes Friday, July 21st. *****

Exam 1 covers Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of Flanagan.

Week Four (July 17-23):

[Flanagan, Ch. 4, "The Science of Behavior"](#), B.F. Skinner, pp. 83-104 and 112-117 only (skip section on "the Operant").

Quiz 4 (over Ch. 4), opens Monday, July 17, and closes Sunday, July 23.

Weeks Five and Six (July 24-August 4):

Ch. 5, ["The Case for Cognitive-Developmental Psychology" \(Piaget\)](#), pp. 119-133 only (skip Kohlberg, just know who he was). There is also a separate reading also included with this unit: The logic of theory confirmation and disconfirmation.

Quiz 5 (over Ch. 5, and theory confirmation/disconfirmation), opens Monday July 24, and closes Sunday, July 30.

***** EXAM 2: Opens Friday, July 28, closes Friday, August 4th. *****

Exam 2 covers Chapters 4 and 5 of Flanagan, and the logic of theory confirmation and disconfirmation.

The Optional, Extra Credit Quiz covers the American Experience documentary film, *The Lobotomist*. Before taking the quiz, watch it on YouTube (search "The Lobotomist 2008 FULL"), or use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2CnIIIwsgU>

If you wish to consult it, the complete transcript is here:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/transcript/lobotomist-transcript/>

The Extra Credit Quiz over *The Lobotomist* documentary opens Friday, July 21, and closes Thursday, July 27th.

Summer B Academic Calendar

- For important UCF dates, please see the Summer 2017 Academic Calendar at: <http://calendar.ucf.edu/2017/summer> and be sure to click on the "B" option.