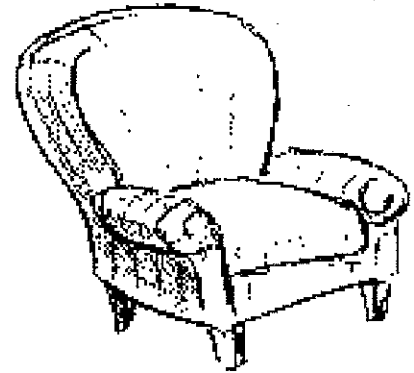


PSYC82
Theoretical Psychology
Fall 2005



Instructor: Joel Walmsley
Office: S-514
Office Hours: Wednesday, 3-5 pm
Phone: 416-287-7416
E-mail: joel[dot]walmsley[at]utoronto[dot]ca
Class: Wednesday, 7-9 pm, SW143

Website: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~walmsley/PSYC82>

• **Outline:**

This course aims to cover both questions *about* theoretical psychology, as well as issues *within* it. The first half of the course will cover some of the tools, concepts and methods of theoretical psychology -- topics will include the relation between psychology and philosophy, the nature of psychological laws and explanations, and some basic philosophy of science. We will then study some actual theoretical psychology by considering the successive 'paradigms' of classical, connectionist and dynamical cognitive science, as well as foundational issues from neuropsychology and psychiatry. Readings will be drawn from a package of a variety of authors in cognitive science and its sub-disciplines. Emphasis will be placed on understanding both the arguments these authors advance, and how their theoretical concerns are related to experimental work.

• **Evaluation:**

1) Midterm take-home test	25%	Due: 19 th October
2) Reading response (1 page)	10%	Due: Any time (see notes)
3) Final Essay (5-7 pages)	35%	Due: 30 th November
4) Exam (3 Hrs)	30%	10 th -21 st December

• **Recommended Background Reading:**

Kukla, A. (2001) *Methods of Theoretical Psychology* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press)

Call number: BF38 .K84 2001 SCAR. Also available on- line¹ at
<http://cognet.mit.edu/library/books/view?isbn=0262112612>

¹ If you connect to the internet using a service which is not provided by the U of T, then you need to use the 'My Access' service to get this. Have a look at
<http://www.library.utoronto.ca/services/libraryusers/myaccess.html>

• Schedule and Readings:

All readings are required, unless marked by an asterisk (*), in which case, they are "recommended." Readings which are marked by a hash (#) are available on-line; links to them will be provided via the course webpage, and on the UTSC intranet. Otherwise, readings can be found in the course reader, available from the UTSC bookstore.

Week 1 (14 Sept.): Introduction and Overview.

No Readings

Week 2 (21 Sept.): Conceptual Tools

Kukla, A. (1989) "Nonempirical Issues in Psychology" *American Psychologist* 44:785-794

Kukla, A. (1995) "Amplification and Simplification as Modes of Theoretical Analysis in Psychology" *New Ideas in Psychology* 13:201-217

Week 3 (28 Sept.): State of the art in philosophy of mind

Clark, A. (2001) *Mindware* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)
- Appendix 1, entitled "Some Backdrop: Dualism, Behaviorism, Functionalism and Beyond"

Fodor, J. (1981) "The Mind-Body Problem" *Scientific American* 244:114-123

Week 4 (5 Oct.): The role of philosophy

Van Gelder, T. (1998) "The roles of philosophy in cognitive science" *Philosophical Psychology* 11(2):117-136

* # Grush, R. (2002) "The Philosophy of Cognitive Science" in P. Macamers and M. Silberstein (Eds.) *Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Science* (Oxford: Blackwell)

Week 5 (12 Oct.): Psychological Laws

Horgan, T. and Tienson, J. (1990) "Soft Laws" *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 15:256-279

Week 6 (19 Oct.): Psychological Explanation

Cummins, R. (2000) "How Does It Work?' versus 'What Are The Laws?': Two Conceptions of Psychological Explanation" in F.C. Keil and R.A. Wilson (Eds.) *Explanation and Cognition* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press)

* Clark, A. (1996) "Happy Couplings: Emergence and Explanatory Interlock" in M. Boden (Ed.) *The Philosophy of Artificial Life* (Oxford: OUP)

Week 7 (26 Oct.): Paradigms I: Classical cognitive science

- # Clark, A. (1989) *Microcognition* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press)
- Chapter 1: "Classical Cognitivism"
- * # Newell, A., and Simon, H.A., (1981) "Computer Science as Empirical Enquiry: Symbols and Search" *Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery* 19:35-50

Week 8 (2 Nov.): Paradigms II: Connectionist cognitive science

- Franklin, S., (1995) *Artificial Minds* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press)
- Chapter 7: "The Second AI Debate"
- * Churchland, P.S. (1990) "Cognitive activity in artificial neural networks" in D. Osherson and E.E. Smith (Eds.) *An Invitation to Cognitive Science, Volume 3: Thinking* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press)

Week 9 (9 Nov.): Paradigms III: Dynamical Cognitive Science

- # Van Gelder "Revisiting the Dynamical hypothesis" (unpublished manuscript. Available at <http://www.arts.unimelb.edu.au/~tgelder/papers/Brazil.pdf>)
- # Beer, R.D. (2000) "Dynamical approaches to cognitive science" *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 4(3):91-99

Week 10 (16 Nov.): Embodied/Embedded cognitive science

- # Clark and Chalmers (1998) "The Extended Mind" *Analysis* 58(1):7-19
- * # Brooks, R. (1991) "Intelligence without Representation" *Artificial Intelligence* 47:139-159

Week 11 (23 Nov.): Disorders I: Cognitive Neuropsychology

- Holt, J. (2004) *Blindsight and the Nature of Consciousness* (Peterborough, ON: Broadview)
- Ch. 1: "A Brief History of Blindsight"
- Ellis, A.W. & Young, A.W. (1988) *Human Cognitive Neuropsychology* (London: LEA)
-Chapter 1: "What is Cognitive Neuropsychology?"

Week 12 (30 Nov.): Disorders II: Classification and the DSM-IV

- # Bentall (1992) "A Proposal to Classify Happiness as a Psychiatric Disorder" *Journal of Medical Ethics* 18:94-98
- # Shea, S.E., Gordon, K., Hawkins, A., Kawchuk, J., and Smith, D. (2000) "Pathology in the Hundred Acre Wood: A Neurodevelopmental Perspective on A.A. Milne" *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 163(12):1557-1558

• **Other Important Dates to Note:**

September 5: Labour Day -- University closed.

September 12: Classes begin in F and Y courses.
September 25: Last day to add F and Y courses.
October 10: Thanksgiving Day -- University closed.
November 6: Last day to drop F courses without academic penalty.
December 5: Last day of classes in F courses. Last day for submission of term assignments in F courses.
December 6-9: Study Break.
December 10-21: Final examinations in F courses. 2005 Summer deferred examinations.
December 22-January 3: December break -- University closed.

• Notes on Assignments:

[NB: More detailed notes on my expectations, together with some hints on how to do well, will be distributed at the time of the assignments themselves.]

The “Reading Response” should be at most one page long. It should be a brief discussion of, or commentary on, some issue in the readings which struck you as significant or gripping. For example, you might claim that an author’s argument is invalid/unsound; you might point out a non-obvious implication of an author’s position; you might suggest a potential counterexample to a theory you encounter; you might relate one of the theories to something you have learned in another class. It should be submitted in class in the same week as the readings to which it responds (e.g. if you want to respond to Horgan and Tienson’s “Soft Laws”, you should hand it in on the 12th October). It will not be accepted if it is submitted in a week other than the week of the readings to which it responds.

The mid-term take-home test will consist of a list of five questions from which you may choose any three to write brief (~1 page each) answers on. More detail will be given at the time of the assignment. Questions will be distributed in class on October 12th, answers are due in class on October 19th, and I shall endeavour to have the papers graded and returned before the 6th of November (i.e., the drop date). Late submissions will *only* be accepted by e-mail. The penalty for late submissions which are not accompanied by appropriate medical documentation will be one grade point per day *including weekends* (e.g., a one-day-late A- would receive a grade of B+; a three-day-late B would receive a grade of C).

The term essay should be five to seven pages long, and will allow you to develop your own thoughts more fully. It will *not* be a research paper, hence the use of outside sources will not be necessary, and is in fact discouraged. I will circulate a list of five questions, from which you may choose one to write on. You may also write on a topic of your own choosing, but if you do, it must be cleared with me no later than 23rd November. The essay is due in class on 30st November. Again, the penalty for late submissions will be one partial letter grade per day including weekends.

The final exam will be on a date beyond my control between 10th and 21st December. It will be three hours long and will consist of one section of short answer questions, and two essay questions.

- **A note on plagiarism:**

(Taken from the department of Philosophy's *Undergraduate Bulletin* at <http://philosophy.utoronto.ca/current/ubul5-6.pdf>)

"The following practices are all instances of academic dishonesty:

1. Copying or paraphrasing extensive passages from other sources without acknowledgement.
2. Submitting a term paper written in whole or in part by someone else.
3. Submitting a term paper for credit in more than one course, without the permission of the instructor.
4. Copying the answers of another student in any test, examination or take home assignments.

In any of these cases appropriate penalties, will be applied."

In short, anything that prevents the essay from demonstrating your original attempt to grapple with an issue is a **Bad Thing**, and will not be tolerated. If you're unsure about something, talk to me about it in advance.

For some useful advice on managing sources, and how to avoid both plagiarism and its consequences, take a look at:

<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~nscharer/plagmain.html>

For the university's stance, see the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*, at: <http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/rules.htm#behaviour>

For the University's advice on how *not* to plagiarise, have a look at:

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>

- **Other useful web links**

Some of you will be unfamiliar with the more philosophical readings. If this is the case, I strongly recommend you take a look at Jim Pryor's excellent advice on "How to Read a Philosophy Paper".

<http://www.princeton.edu/~jimpryor/general/reading.html>

Not sure what a philosophical term means? Take a look at Chris Eliasmith's Dictionary of Philosophy of Mind:

<http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~philos/MindDict/dictindex.html>

- **Other books you may find interesting/useful:**

Bem, S and Looren de Jong, H (1997) *Theoretical Issues in Psychology* (London: Sage)

- A good introduction to philosophy of science and philosophy of mind for psychologists. Aimed at someone with little or no philosophical background.

Baggini, J and Fosl, P.S. (2003) *The Philosopher's Toolkit* (Oxford: Blackwell)

- A guide to the ways and means of constructing and evaluating philosophical arguments, together with examples.

Flanagan, O. (1991) *The Science of the Mind* (2nd Ed.) (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press)

- A thorough and well written book covering all aspects of the intersection of philosophy and psychology.