

## COGS 285: Graduate Seminar on Consciousness

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### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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Office Hours: SSM 260B, Wednesdays 1-2 p.m. or by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course will meet on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:15 p.m. to explore the topic of consciousness as it is studied within cognitive science, drawing on various disciplines within cognitive science, including philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience. The course aims to supply students with the skills and knowledge to accurately discuss the latest developments in research on consciousness.

### GRADING PROCEDURES

All students will be expected to turn in a final paper of no more than twenty pages in the form of a grant proposal by 5 p.m. on December 15th, which will be worth the full grade. The format of this proposal should match the requirements of a chosen grant-funding agency, which should be specified in the proposal. Students may elect to turn in a draft version of the final paper for edits on December 2nd, two weeks before the final paper is due.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

#### **Aug 26: Introduction to Consciousness Research**

Owen Flanagan (1994) Subjectivity and the natural order

#### **Sep 2: Foundations of Consciousness Research I**

David Chalmers (1996) Can consciousness be reductively explained?

Daniel Dennett (1991) Multiple drafts versus the Cartesian theater

#### **Sep 9: Foundations of Consciousness Research II**

Susan Hurley (1998) Three mistakes about consciousness

Francis Crick and Christof Koch (1990) Towards a neurobiological theory of consciousness

#### **Sep 16: Contemporary Theories of Consciousness I**

Stanislas Dehaene and Lionel Naccache (2000) Towards a cognitive neuroscience of consciousness: basic evidence and a workspace framework

#### **Sep 23: Contemporary Theories of Consciousness II**

Hakwan Lau (2007) A higher order Bayesian decision theory of consciousness

#### **Sep 30: Contemporary Theories of Consciousness III**

Walter Freeman (2009) Consciousness, intentionality, and causality

#### **Oct 7: Contemporary Theories of Consciousness IV**

Giulio Tononi (2012) Integrated information theory of consciousness: An updated account

#### **Oct 14: Altered States of Consciousness I**

Arne Dietrich (2003) Functional neuroanatomy of altered states of consciousness: The transient hypofrontality hypothesis

Jenni Ogden (2005) The impaired executive

**Oct 21: Altered States of Consciousness II**

Melanie Boly et al. (2008) Intrinsic brain activity in altered states of consciousness

Susan Blackmore (2012) Unconscious processing; drugs and altered states

**Oct 28: Altered States of Consciousness III**

Evan Thompson (2015) Sleeping: are we conscious in deep sleep?

Susan Blackmore (2012) Reality and imagination; Sleep, dreams, and hypnotic states

**Nov 4: Altered States of Consciousness IV**

Evan Thompson (2015) Floating: Where am I?

Olaf Blanke et al. (2005) Linking out-of-body experience and self processing to mental own-body imagery at the temporoparietal junction

**Nov 11: Measuring Consciousness I**

Eric Schwitzgebel (2007) Do you have constant tactile experience of your feet in your shoes?: Or is experience limited to what's in attention?

Eric Schwitzgebel (2008) The unreliability of naive introspection

**Nov 18: Measuring Consciousness II**

Anil Seth et al. (2008) Measuring consciousness: relating behavioural and neurophysiological approaches

Kristian Sandberg et al. (2010) Measuring consciousness: is one measure better than the other?

**Dec 2: Measuring Consciousness III** Martin Monti et al. (2013) Dynamic change of global and local information processing in propofol-induced loss and recovery of consciousness

Olivia Gosseries et al. (2014) Measuring consciousness in severely damaged brains

**Dec 9: Final Paper Draft Discussion****Dec 16: Final Paper Due**