

### **Philosophy of Psychology**

Requirements: 2 short papers (5pp.), due October 13 and November 22, and a final paper (10-15 pp.) due the day of the final exam. Short paper topics will be assigned. You may expand one of the short papers or do a paper on a topic of your own choosing for the final paper.

Texts: *The Philosophy of Psychology*, George Botterill and Peter Carruthers, eds., (BC). Available at Book Culture (off Broadway on 112<sup>th</sup> St.).

Other articles available on courseworks (CW).

### **Schedule of Topics and Readings**

1. September 8. Recent Directions in Philosophy of Mind and Psychology. BC, Chapter 1.

#### *Action Explanation*

2. September 13. Problems in Explaining Action. Werner Greve, "Traps and Gaps in Action Explanation", (CW); Daniel Wegner, excerpts from the *Illusions of Will* (CW); BC, Chapter 2.
3. September 15. Acting Freely. Susan Wolf, "Asymmetrical Freedom" (CW).
4. September 20. Practical Reasoning. Sebastian Roedl, *Self-Consciousness*, excerpts (CW).

#### *Mental Unity*

5. September 22. What is Mental Unity? Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature* (partial); David Wiggins, "Locke, Butler, and the Stream of Consciousness: Men as a Natural Kind," (both in CW).
6. September 27. Mental Disunity. Thomas Nagel, "Brain Bisection and the Unity of Consciousness"; Derek Parfit, "Divided Minds and the Nature of Persons," (CW).
7. September 29. Constructed and Real Selves. Daniel C. Dennett, "The Self as a Center of Narrative Gravity," J. David Velleman, "Self as Narrator," David Funder, "On the Accuracy of Personality Judgment" (CW).

#### *Knowledge of Other Minds and Your Own*

8. October 4. Understanding Minds. Nicholas Humphrey, "The Social Function of Intellect," Alison Gopnik, "How we know our minds: The illusion of first-person knowledge of intentionality" (both in CW); BC, Chapter 4, sections 1-2.
9. October 6. Interacting Minds. Shaun Gallagher, "The Practice of Mind," (CW).
10. October 11. The Puzzle of Self-Knowledge. Alex Byrne, "Introspection," Matthew Boyle, "Two Kinds of Self-Knowledge" (CW).

#### *What is an Emotion?*

11. October 13. FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE. Foundational Theories. Charles Darwin, excerpt from 'Of the Expression of Emotion,' William James,

- “What is an Emotion?” Stanley Schachter and Jerome Singer, “Cognitive, Social, and Physiological Determinants of Emotional State,” (all in CW).
12. October 18. Recent Theories. Silvan Tomkins, “The Quest for Primary Motive”; Silvan Tomkins and Robert McCarter, “What and where are the primary affects? Some evidence for the theory” Paul Ekman, ““Biological and Cultural contributions to Body and Facial Movement in the Expression of Emotions”; Turner and Ortony, “Basic Emotions,”
13. October 20. FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE. Are Emotions Psychological States? Errol Bedford, *Emotions*, Alan J. Fridlund and Bradley Duchaine, “‘Facial Expressions of Emotion’ and the Hermetic Self”; Ruth Leys, (“How did Fear Become a Scientific Object and What Kind of Object is it?”) (CW).

*What is Rationality?*

14. October 22. Models of Rationality and Irrationality. BC, Chapter 5 (skip 4.1).
15. October 27. Bounded Rationality. Gerd Gigerenzer, “Striking a Blow for Sanity in Theories of Rationality,” “Why Heuristics Work,” “Moral Intuition = Fast and Frugal Heuristics?” (CW)
16. November 3. Arational Mental States. Tamar Szabo Gendler, “Alief in Action (and Reaction)” (CW).

*Representations with Content*

17. November 8. How to Demarcate Content. BC, Chapter 6, sections 1-3.
18. November 10. Content as a Cause? BC, Chapter 6, 4-6.
19. November 15. Explaining Content. BC, Chapter 7, 1-3.
20. November 17. Further Theories of Content, BC, Chapter 7, 4-6.

*Consciousness*

21. November 22. SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE. What is Consciousness? BC, Chapter 9, sections 1 and 2.
22. November 24. The Explanatory Gap. BC, Chapter 9, sections 3 and 4.

*Theories and Methods*

23. November 29. The Modularity of Mind. Elizabeth Bates, “Modularity, Domain Specificity, and the Development of Language,” (CW); BC, Chapter 3, sections 4-6.
24. December 1. How Do Psychological Explanations Work? Robert Cummins, “‘How Does it Work’? vs. ‘What are the Laws’?”; Daniel Dennett, “Why the Law of Effect Won’t Go Away” (CW).
25. December 6, Marr’s Levels. David Marr, *Vision* (excerpt) (CW).
26. December 8. Evolutionary Psychology and its Critics. Leda Cosmides, “The Logic of social exchange,” Paul Pollard, “Natural selection for the selection task,” (both in CW).
27. December 13. Whence Theories? Gerd Gigerenzer and Thomas Sturm, “Tools=Theories=Data?” (CW).

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