

Philosophy of Perception — 15044

1st Semester 2021/2022

Professor: Preston Werner, pjwerner1@gmail.com

Course Time: 16:30-18:00

Room: 2207, Humanities

Office Hours: 15:00-16:00, Wednesdays (or by appointment)

HU Credits: 2

Teaching Language: English

Course Description:

Perception arguably makes more of a contribution to our beliefs about the world than anything else. (Empiricists believe that it is the only source of knowledge about the world.) This class will discuss various philosophical puzzles surrounding the nature of perceptual experience, as well as some proposed solutions to those puzzles. We will focus on questions about (a) what kind of state perceptual experiences are, (b) the [re]presentational nature of perceptual experiences, (c) the content of perceptual experiences, and (d) the relationship of perception to other parts of the mind/brain.

Course Objectives: Students will understand the basic positions in each of the major debates discussed in class. Students should show an improvement in thinking through the issues (both in writing and in participation). Students should be able to think through these issues independently and creatively.

Course Requirements: Your grade will be determined by the following:

10% Active participation in discussions during the lessons

20% Two 1 page assignments which will be assigned during the semester

70% Two 3-5 page essays (responding to specific prompts to be distributed in class), **due March 12**

Technology Policy: Cell phones are not permitted in class. Laptops are allowed; however, any student caught using laptops for something other than taking notes will have their laptop privileges revoked.

Statement about Accessibility: I value diversity and inclusion, and I want to create an environment which is as equitable, inclusive, and welcoming to learning as possible. Please talk to me as soon as possible if you find any aspect of this course

creates barriers to your inclusion, ability to learn, or proper assessment of that learning.

Readings (Subject to change):

Note: All readings are either linked below or available on Moodle.

October 13 — First day of class; no reading

Optional: William Fish, *Philosophy of Perception: A Contemporary Introduction*.

Chapter 1: Introduction.

Silins, "Perceptual Experience and Perceptual Justification", Section 1. Stanford

Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Available at:

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/perception-justification/>

October 20 — William Fish, *Philosophy of Perception: A Contemporary Introduction*. Chapter 2: Sense datum theories.

October 27 — Gluer, "[In Defence of a Doxastic Account of Experience](#)"

Optional: Gluer, "Defeating Looks"

November 3 — Mendelovici & Bourget, "[Tracking Representationalism](#)"

November 10 — Haddock & Macpherson, "[Introduction: Varieties of Disjunctivism](#)"

Optional: Moreira de Carvalho, "[An ecological approach to disjunctivism](#)"

William Fish, *Philosophy of Perception*. Chapter 5: Naive Realism.

November 17 — Davis & Markman, "Embodied Cognition as a Practical Paradigm"

Wilson & Foglia, "Embodied Cognition" Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy,

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/embodied-cognition/>

November 24 — Macpherson, "[The Admissible Contents of Experience](#)"

Logue, "[Visual Experience of Natural Kind Properties: Is There Any Fact of the Matter?](#)"

Assignment #1 Due

December 1 — Siegel & Byrne, "[Rich or thin?](#)"

Optional: Siegel, "[How Can We Discover the Contents of Experience?](#)"

Helton, "[Recent Issues in High-Level Perception](#)"

December 8 — No reading; Topic: Empirical issues in perception

Optional: Fish, *Philosophy of Perception*. Chapter 6: The Philosophy of Perception and Vision Science.

December 15 — No reading; Empirical issues in perception (cont.)

December 22 — Silins, "[Cognitive Penetration and the Epistemology of Perception](#)"

Assignment #2 Due

December 29 — Munton, "Perceptual Skill and Social Structure"

Optional: Ludwig, "Social-Eyes: Rich Perceptual Contents and Systemic Oppression"

January 6 — Speaks, "[Is there a problem about nonconceptual content?](#)"

Optional: Tsou, "[Distinguishing Non-Conceptual Content from Non-Syntactic Propositions: Comment on Fuller](#)"

January 13 — Cutter, "Spatial Experience and Special Relativity"

Optional: Chalmers, "[Perception and the Fall from Eden](#)"