COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course covers some of the recent empirical work on consciousness and a lot of the recent philosophical work on consciousness. We investigate questions including the following: what is consciousness? Are there distinct kinds of consciousness? What are their distinguishing characteristics? Are there neural correlates of consciousness? Is consciousness an emergent field property of distributed neural networks? Why do qualia pose a problem for physiological reductionism? What is monitoring consciousness? What is the unity of consciousness?

REQUIRED BOOKS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING
Requirements: Four 3 page précis; one 12 page analytic research paper, due at the end of the semester. Late papers without granted extensions down-graded one-half letter grade per day late. Attendance crucial and expected; participation encouraged. Reading is to be completed prior to class.

Cheating: Any cheating (including, but not limited to, plagiarism, recycling, or purchasing papers) will result in an automatic ‘F’ for the course, without opportunity for grade change.

Grading: Each précis – 10% x 4 = 40%; final paper = 50%; participation = 10%

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Week 1: PHILosophical Introduction
W, Introduction, Chapter 1
Nagel, “What is it Like to Be a Bat?” in C, pp.219-225

Week 2: PHILosophical Concepts I: Identity, Supervenience, and Emergence
W, Chapter 2
Smart, “Sensations and Brain Processes,” in C, pp. 60-67

Week 3: PHILosophical Concepts II: Reductive and Non-reductive Physicalism
W, Chapter 3
Block, “Troubles with Functionalism,” in C, pp.94-98

Week 4: REPRESENTATIONALIST THEORIES OF CONSCIOUSNESS I: Intentionality
W, Chapter 4
Brentano, “The Distinction between Mental and Physical Phenomena,” in C, 479-483
Chisholm, “Intentional Inexistence,” in C, 484-491

Week 5: REPRESENTATIONALIST THEORIES OF CONSCIOUSNESS II: Higher-Order Theories
W, Chapter 4
Dretske, “Conscious Experience,” in C, 422-435

Week 6: SCIENCES OF CONSCIOUSNESS I: Cortical and Cognitive Evolution
W, Chapter 5
Wynn, “Archaeology and Cognitive Evolution”

Week 7: SCIENCES OF CONSCIOUSNESS II: Arousal and Perception
W, Chapter 6
Welshon, “Searching for the Neural Realizers of Ownership Unity”

Week 8:  SCIENTES OF CONSCIOUSNESS III: AFFECT AND INTEROCEPTION
W, Chapter 6

Week 9:  SCIENTES OF CONSCIOUSNESS IV: ATTENTION, WORKING MEMORY, AND LANGUAGE
W, Chapter 7

Week 10: SCIENTES OF CONSCIOUSNESS V: NEURAL MODELLING AND FIELD PROPERTIES
W, Chapter 8

Week 11: PHILOSOPHY OF NEUROSCIENCE I: MEASUREMENT, LOCALIZATION, AND DISSOCIATION
W, Chapter 9
Broad, “Mechanism and Its Alternatives,” in C, 106-115

Week 12: PHILOSOPHY OF NEUROSCIENCE II: CORRELATES, REALIZERS, MULTIPLE REALIZATION
W, Chapter 10
Kim, “Multiple Realization and the Metaphysics of Reduction,” in C, pp.135-149

Week 13: PHILOSOPHY OF NEUROSCIENCE III: REDUCTION, OVERDETERMINATION, AND COUPLING
W, Chapter 11
Kim, “The Many Problems of Mental Causation,” in C, pp. 170-178

Week 14: PHILOSOPHY OF NEUROSCIENCE IV: EMBODIED, EMBEDDED, AND EXTENDED CONSCIOUSNESS
W, Chapter 12 and Concluding Unscientific Postscript

Week 15: Writing Week, no class

Week 16: FINAL PAPER DUE ON DAY OF SCHEDULED FINAL, WEDNESDAY, 12/14/11

DISABILITIES: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SHALL SUBMIT THEIR PAPERWORK TO ME IN PERSON WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS
PHIL 4200, SPRING 2014

REVISED READING SCHEDULE

March 31, April 2:  
SCIENTES OF CONSCIOUSNESS II: AROUSAL, PERCEPTION, AFFECT, AND INTEROCEPTION  
W, Chapter 6  
Welshon, “Searching for the Neural Realizers of Ownership Unity”

April 7, 9:  
SCIENTES OF CONSCIOUSNESS III: ATTENTION, WORKING MEMORY, AND LANGUAGE  
W, Chapter 7

April 14:  
SCIENTES OF CONSCIOUSNESS IV: NEURAL MODELLING AND FIELD PROPERTIES  
W, Chapter 8

April 16:  
NO CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16.

April 21, 23:  
PHILOSOPHY OF NEUROSCIENCE I: MEASUREMENT, LOCALIZATION, DISSOCIATION, CORRELATES AND MULTIPLE REALIZATION  
W, Chapters 9 and 10

April 28, 30:  
PHILOSOPHY OF NEUROSCIENCE II: MULTIPLE REALIZATION, OVERDETERMINATION, AND COUPLING  
W, Chapters 10 and 11  
Kim, “Multiple Realization and the Metaphysics of Reduction,” in C, pp.135-149

May 5:  
PHILOSOPHY OF NEUROSCIENCE III: EMBODIED, EMBEDDED, AND EXTENDED CONSCIOUSNESS  
W, Chapters 11, 12 and Concluding Unscientific Postscript  

May 7:  
Writing Day; NO CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 7.

Week 16:  
FINAL PAPER, HARD COPY ONLY, DUE WEDNESDAY, 5/16/14, 5:00 pm, in my office, COH 2025. Early submissions are welcome.