

Philosophy 650: Perception and the Body
Spring 2009 Syllabus
Prof. Clare Batty

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Office Hours: Tues. 10:30-12:30; Thurs 3:30-4:30

Course Description

This course is a graduate-level investigation of several contemporary debates in the philosophy of perception. The central questions we will consider are:

- i. To what degree does action inform perception? What is the relationship between perception and action?
- ii. What is the correct account of the nature of our bodily awareness? What is the relationship between bodily awareness and self-consciousness and/or cognition?

Along the way, we will consider how answers to these questions build on and inform ongoing debates in the philosophy of perception.

Required Readings

Action in Perception, Alva Noë, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004.

The Body and the Self, José Luis Bermúdez, Anthony Marcel, Naomi Eilan (eds.) Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1998. [BS]
(I will also place copies of the required papers from this text in the *Mail Room File*—see below.)

Mail Room File: Various readings copied and placed in a folder in the philosophy department mailroom.

Please make copies of these as needed and return them, quickly and in the same order, to the folder so that others may do the same. [MR]

Reading Assignments

There are reading assignments for each week. The readings will require close study, and you should not put them off until the last minute. This course is a **DISCUSSION COURSE**, and if it is to be of value to us, ***your careful preparation of the readings is crucial***. With such a small group, it will be noticeable if we are not 'together' with the readings. If you have trouble understanding what an author says, or any other question concerning the course, please do not hesitate to ask.

Reading questions: You must submit at least **two** questions **every Thursday by 2pm**. You can ask for explanation of a passage, request clarification of arguments, present an objection to or worry about a view/argument, and so on.

Questions MUST be submitted via the form on the course website (www.clarebatty.com).

Requirements

Participation (10%): This will include attendance, preparation for and participation in class discussion and submission of weekly reading questions (see above).

Presentations (10% per): You will do **two** in-class presentations if ~20 minutes. The presentation will focus on at least one of the required readings for that week. You will write up the presentation and distribute it in class to all seminar participants. Handouts are encouraged but cannot act as substitutes for the written presentation. Presentations should include a summary of the main claims of the relevant text(s) and raise some questions/objections/concerns for us to take up in class.

Paper proposal (5%): You will submit a one- to two-page paper proposal to me **in class on Thursday March 26**. After handing it in, you will schedule a meeting with me for the following week to discuss your proposal. You are more than welcome to meet with me more than once about the paper (and I encourage you to do so); but only this first meeting is *required*.

Referee report (5%): Drafts of your final papers will be distributed to other members of the class for blind review. Drafts of your final paper, prepared for blind review, are due to me **by 2pm on Thursday April 23**. E-mail is fine. Referee reports of ~750 words are due to me **by 2pm** the following week—**Thursday April 30**. Again e-mail is fine. We will talk about the form that these reports can take closer to the time.

Term paper (60%): You will write a term paper of 20-30 pages. The paper is due **Wednesday May 6** via e-mail.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism means taking the words and thoughts of others (their ideas, concepts, images, sentences, and so forth) and using them as if they were your own, without crediting the author or citing the source. At this and most other universities, plagiarism is taken very seriously and will be punished in accordance with the UK Policy on Disposition of Academic Offenses. For more information on plagiarism, and how to avoid it, see:

<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf>

http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_understand_plagiarism_1/0,6622,427064-,00.html

For a statement on UK's Policy on Disposition of Academic Offenses, see:

http://www.chem.uky.edu/research/grossman/acadoffenses/new_policy.pdf

Getting Help

I am here to help you. Feel free to email me with any questions about the material or the assignments, or come and visit me during office hours. You may also make an appointment with me outside of office hours.

Web Resources

See Jim Pryor's Guidelines on reading and writing philosophy papers:

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html>

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>.

Useful glossaries are Jim Pryor's Philosophical Terms and Methods:

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/index.html>.

David Chalmers' list of Resources relating to philosophy of mind is excellent:

<http://consc.net/chalmers/>.

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP) is also excellent, but far from complete:

<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>. Chalmers provides a condensed list of those entries related to philosophy of mind/perception at: <http://consc.net/guide.html>. Chalmers also has a working database of papers in the philosophy of mind at: <http://consc.net/mindpapers>

Classroom and Learning Accommodations

Any student with a disability who is taking this course and needs classroom or exam accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center, 257-2754, room 2 Alumni Gym, jkarnes@uky.edu.

Reading Schedule v1.0
 Phil 650: Perception and the Body
 Spring 2009
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Instructor reserves the right to change the schedule--in good time and within reason.

| Week 1 | Topic | Readings | Assignments |
|----------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 01/15/09 | (En)Active Perception | Noë: <i>Action in Perception</i> , ch.1 | |
| Week 2 | | | |
| 01/22/09 | (En)Active Perception | Noë: <i>Action in Perception</i> , ch.2, ch.3 | |
| Week 3 | | | |
| 01/29/09 | (En)Active Perception | Noë: <i>Action in Perception</i> , ch.4, ch.5 | |
| Week 4 | | | |
| 02/05/09 | (En)Active Perception | Noë: <i>Action in Perception</i> , ch.6, ch.7 | |
| Week 5 | | | |
| 02/12/09 | Action and Perception: Noë's Predecessors | Hurley: "Content and Environment: Parallels Between Action and Perception" Hurley: "Alternative Views of Perception and Action" Gibson: ""The Theory of Affordances" | |
| Week 6 | | | |
| 02/19/09 | Responses to Noë | Book Symposium: Philosophy and Phenomenological Research May, 2008 Campbell: "Sensorimotor Knowledge and Naïve Realism" [MR] Martin: "Commentary on Action in Perception" [MR] Kelly: "Content and Constancy: Phenomenology, Psychology, and the Content of Perception" [MR] Noë: "Reply to Campbell, Martin and Kelly" [MR] | |
| Week 7 | | | |
| 02/26/09 | Embodiment: Intro | Gallagher: <i>How the Body Shapes the Mind</i> , Intro, ch.1, ch.2 [MR] | |
| Week 8 | | | |
| 03/05/09 | Representing Objects, Others and Oneself | Introduction: "Self Consciousness and the Body: An Interdisciplinary Approach" [BS], [MR] Snowdon: "Persons, Animals and Bodies" [BS], [MR] | |
| Week 9 | | | |
| 03/12/09 | Representing Objects, Others and Oneself | Butterworth: "An Ecological Perspective on the Origins of Self" [BS], [MR] Bermúdez: "Ecological Perception and the Notion of a Nonconceptual Point of View" [BS], [MR] | |
| Week 10 | | | |
| 03/19/09 | | SPRING BREAK | |
| Week 11 | | | |
| 03/26/09 | Representing Objects, Others and Oneself | Baldwin: "Objectivity, Causality, and Agency" [BS], [MR] Russell: "At Two With Nature: Agency and the Development of Self-World Dualism" [BS], [MR] | <i>Paper proposal due</i> |
| Week 12 | | | |
| 04/02/09 | Bodily Awareness | O'Shaughnessy: "Proprioception and the Body Image" [BS], [MR] Cole & Paillard: "Living Without Touch and Peripheral Information About Body Position and Movement" [BS], [MR] | |
| Week 13 | | | |
| 04/09/09 | | PACIFIC APA: Batty away | |
| Week 14 | | | |
| 04/16/09 | Bodily Awareness | Kinsbourne: "Awareness of One's Own Body" [BS], [MR] Gallagher: "Body Schema and Intentionality" [BS], [MR] | |
| Week 15 | | | |
| 04/23/09 | Bodily Awareness | Martin: "Bodily Awareness: A Sense of Ownership" [BS], [MR] Brewer: "Bodily Awareness and the Self" [BS], [MR] | <i>Paper drafts due (2pm.)</i> |
| Week 16 | | | |
| 4/30/09 | T.B.A. | T.B.A. | <i>Referee reports due (2pm.)</i> |

Final papers due May 6