

Philosophy 680: Philosophy of Perception
Spring 2008 Syllabus
Prof. Clare Batty

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Office Hours: W 1:30-3:00, F 10:00-11:30, or by appt.

Course Description

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

- What is the difference between perception and belief? Do experiences, like beliefs, have propositional content?
- What accounts for the distinctive 'feel' of perceptual experiences?
- What accounts for the differences between the senses?

In examining these questions and others, we will consider how philosophical debates about perception have been shaped by a focus on vision. In doing so, we will consider some of the other sensory modalities.

Required Readings

Unfortunately, there is no quintessential textbook in the philosophy of perception. We will therefore have to rely on photocopies of papers/book chapters and online sources. Those that are not marked with an URL below will be available to you in the filing cabinet in POT 1406. Many of the readings are available online and I have provided some of the links to these below. I will provide the remainder of those available as the term progresses.

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.

Requirements

2 papers (10-12 pages): 40% each (80%)

Class Participation: 20%

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>.

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.

Tentative Schedule

(Your instructor reserves the right to modify things—within reason.)

WEEK 2 (Jan. 14)

Introduction to the Philosophy of Perception

WEEK 3 (Jan. 21)

Martin Luther King Day: No Class!

WEEK 4 (Jan. 28)

The Sense-Datum View: The Argument from Illusion

“Sense Data”, <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/sense-data/>

Smith, “Introduction”; ch. 1 “The Argument from Illusion”

Robinson, ch. 2 “The Traditional Arguments for the Empiricist Conception of Sense-contents: the Argument from Illusion”

Ayer, selections

Austin, selections

[Recommended: Smith, ch. 7 “The Argument from Hallucination”]

WEEK 5 (Feb. 4)

The Content View

Searle, ch. 1 “The Nature of Intentional States”; ch. 2 “The Intentionality of Perception”

[Recommended: Siegel, “The Contents of Perception”

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/perception-contents/>, Armstrong, ch. 10 “Perception and Belief”]

WEEK 6 (Feb. 11)

Which Properties are Represented in Experience?

Tye, selections from *Consciousness, Color and Content*

Siewert, selections from *The Significance of Consciousness*

Siegel, “Which Properties Are Represented In Perception?”,

<http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~ssiegel/papers/msKfinal.html>

WEEK 7 (Feb. 18)

How are Properties Represented in Experience?

McGinn, “Another Look at Color”, UK Libraries, *The Journal of Philosophy* 93 (1996), 537-553

<http://sfx.uky.edu/sfxlcl3/azlist/default>

Boghossian and Velleman, selections from “Colour as a Secondary Quality”, UK Libraries, *Mind* 98 (1989), 81-103 <http://sfx.uky.edu/sfxlcl3/azlist/default>

Langsam, “Why Colors Do Look Like Dispositions”, UK Libraries, *Philosophical Quarterly* 50 (2000), 68-75

<http://sfx.uky.edu/sfxlcl3/azlist/default>

Byrne, “Do Colours Look Like Dispositions? A Reply To Langsam et al.”,

http://mit.edu/abyrne/www/Do_Colours_Look.pdf

WEEK 8 (Feb. 25)

How Are Objects Represented in Experience?

McGinn, selections from *The Character of Mind*

Burge, “Vision and Intentional Content”

Martin, selections from “Particular Thoughts and Singular Thought”,

www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctymfm/Background%20Readings/Particular%20Thoughts%20and%20Singular%20Thought.pdf

Soteriou, “The Particularity of Visual Perception”, UK Libraries, *European Journal of Philosophy* 8 (2000), 73-189 <http://sfx.uky.edu/sfxlcl3/azlist/default>

[Recommended: Campbell, ch. 6 “The Relational View of Experience”]

WEEK 9 (Mar. 3)

Are Ordinary Objects Represented in Experience?

Clark, "Feature-Placing and Proto-Objects", UK Libraries, *Philosophical Psychology*, 17 (2004), 443-469

<http://sfx.uky.edu/sfxlcl3/azlist/default>

Cohen, "Objects, Places, and Perception", UK Libraries, *Philosophical Psychology*, 17 (2004), 471-495

<http://sfx.uky.edu/sfxlcl3/azlist/default>

[Recommended: Siegel, Review of *A Theory of Sentience*,

<http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~ssiegel/papers/Clark.html>]

WEEK 10 (Mar. 10)

Spring Break: No Class!

WEEK 11 (Mar. 17)

Representationalism

Peacocke, "Sensation and the Content of Experience: A Distinction"

Harman, "The Intrinsic Quality of Experience", UK Libraries, *Philosophical Perspectives*, Vol. 4, Action

Theory and Philosophy of Mind (1990), 31-52 <http://sfx.uky.edu/sfxlcl3/azlist/default>

Tye, selections from *Consciousness, Color and Content*

WEEK 12 (Mar. 24)

Representationalism

Tye, "Visual Qualia and Visual Content"

Block, "Mental Paint"

[Recommended: Lycan, selections from *Consciousness and Experience*]

WEEK 13 (Mar. 31)

Distinguishing the Senses

Cytowic, selections from *The Man Who Tasted Shapes*

Nudds, "The Significance of the Senses"

<http://homepages.ed.ac.uk/mnudds/papers/The%20significance%20of%20the%20senses.pdf>

Grice, "Some Remarks on the Senses"

Nelkin, "Categorising the Senses", UK Libraries, *Mind & Language* 5 (1990), 149-165

<http://sfx.uky.edu/sfxlcl3/azlist/default>

[Recommended: Roxbee-Cox, "Distinguishing the Senses", UK Libraries, *Mind* 79 (1970), 530-550

<http://sfx.uky.edu/sfxlcl3/azlist/default>]

WEEK 14 (Apr. 7)

'Another Sense': Audition

Nudds, "Experiencing the Production of Sounds"

<http://homepages.ed.ac.uk/mnudds/papers/etps.pdf>

Nudds, "Sounds and Space"

<http://homepages.ed.ac.uk/mnudds/papers/sas.pdf>

O' Callaghan, selections from *Sounds*

WEEK 15 (Apr. 14)

Yet 'Another Sense': Olfaction

Batty, "A Representational Account of Olfactory Experience"

Batty, "Olfaction, Qualia and the Transparency of Experience"

Lycan, "The Slighting of Smell"

Lycan, selections from *Consciousness and Experience*

WEEK 16 (Apr. 21)

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