
PHIL10174

Dr. J. Suilin Lavelle

People

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Course secretary:     UG office               philinfo@ed.ac.uk
Course librarian:    Mrs. Anne Donnelly    Anne.donnelly@ed.ac.uk

Office hours

My office is in the Dugald Stewart Building, 5.07, and office hours are Tuesdays 11.30 – 12.30. There will not be regular office hours after Tuesday 3 December, but you can make an appointment to come to see me.

Office hours are a good time for you to come and discuss ideas for your essays. Please don’t think you need a ‘problem’ to come to office hours; I am always willing to use this time to chat through any thoughts you may be having about topics covered in the course, or topics for your essays. But of course, if you have a problem, then do come to office hours to talk about it!

Syllabus

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Personal and sub-personal levels of explanation</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Representational theory of mind</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Mental content (1)</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Mental content 2</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Doing without representations</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Hypothesis of extended cognition</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Consciousness 1</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Animal minds</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Cultural minds</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Review</td>
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Assessment

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Essay questions published</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term essay</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Published Wednesday 2 October</td>
<td>Thursday 24 October, by 12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final essay</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>Published Wednesday 30 October</td>
<td>Thursday 12 December, by 12pm</td>
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Tutorials
Tutorials will begin on Tuesday 23 September. I will circulate questions for you to prepare prior to tutorials, which will guide our discussions.

Readings

1. Personal and sub-personal levels of explanation

Required Reading

Secondary Reading
Dennett, Daniel. “Personal and sub-personal levels of explanation.” reprinted in J. Bermudez (Ed) *Philosophy of Psychology: contemporary readings* (Routledge 2006).

2. Representational theory of mind

*Revise from Mind, Matter and Language 1819*

- Lectures 22 – 24, Functionalism and multiple realisability

Required Reading

Secondary Reading


*Possible reading; at the time of publishing the syllabus it is unclear if the library can access it.

3. Mental content (1): Fodor’s causal theory

Required reading


NB: read the Fodor first, then the Rudder-Baker.

4. Mental content (2): Teleological theories

Required reading

Secondary reading (for both weeks)


Orlandi, Nico (2014) *The Innocent Eye*. OUP. (Section 3.3) [Also relevant for ‘Doing without representations’]


5. Doing without representations?

Required reading


Secondary reading


Spaulding, Shannon (2010) Embodied cognition and mindreading. *Mind & Language, 25*(1), 119-140 [Note, this critiques embodied cognition as it applies to a specific issue, namely, how we think about other people’s thoughts. It’s a specific application of the more general critiques of the EC programme.]


6. Hypothesis of extended cognition

Primary reading


Secondary reading


7. Consciousness (1): What is it?

Primary reading

**Secondary reading**


*Possible reading, library access pending.

**8. Consciousness (2): Higher order representational theories**

**Primary reading**


**Secondary reading**


**9. Animal minds**

**Primary reading**


**Secondary reading**


**10. Cultural minds**

**Primary reading**


**Secondary reading**


Lavelle, J. Suilin (forthcoming) The impact of culture on mindreading


**11. Review**