This course will examine the nature of human consciousness from the interdisciplinary perspective of cognitive science. Topics include: the mind-body problem (and psychosomatics); introspection and the analysis of consciousness; the explicit, the implicit, and the unconscious; anesthesia and coma; sleep and dreams; “hysteria” and hypnosis; daydreaming, absorption, and meditation; consciousness and the self; and the origins of consciousness.

Prerequisites

This is an advanced, upper-division course. Students should have completed Psychology 1 or 2, or Cognitive Science 1; additional recommended preparation also includes Psychology 120 or Cognitive Science 100. Psychology 122, 126, and 127 also provide appropriate background.

Readings

**Required** (available for purchase in the ASUC Bookstore and elsewhere)


**Recommended** (available for purchase at your favorite bookstore or on line)


**Also of Interest**


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**Supplementary Materials**

A set of Lecture Supplements is available on the course website. These include summaries of the lectures, as well as additional material that would be included in lectures if time permitted. They also include some articles I have written (or in some cases co-authored) on various topics pertaining to consciousness, as well as links to materials written by others. Students will not be held responsible for material in the lecture supplements that is not also presented in readings or lectures. But those who intend to major in Psychology or Cognitive Science, and others, may find them informative and useful. The set of Lecture Supplements is continuously updated.

A set of Lecture Illustrations will also posted to the course website. These are available in two “handout” versions: 3 slides to a page, good for notetaking but also wasteful of trees; and 6 slides to a page, better for the Earth but somewhat more cramped. Preliminary versions are available before each series of lectures begins; a final, updated version is made available after each lecture series concludes.

Lecture notes may be available for this course from ASUC Lecture Notes Online: Address: 410 Eshleman Hall; URL: [http://notes.berkeley.edu](http://notes.berkeley.edu); Email: notes@berkeley.edu; Phone: (510)705-2794.

**Course Website**
Psychology 129 has a website accessible to those who are formally enrolled in (or waitlisted for) the course, including Cognitive Science 102 and Psychology 222. This website includes a copy of the syllabus, lecture illustrations, and supplements (including lecture summaries), as well as links to other resources related to psychology. It is updated from time to time during the semester. To access the course website, point your browser to the bSpace homepage at: http://bspace.berkeley.edu.

There you should see a tab for ***, which is this course (if you don’t see it, it’s probably because you’re not formally enrolled or waitlisted; search for it in bSpace or contact me and I'll add you to the subscription list). You may also see tabs for other courses for which you are registered. Click on the tab to enter the course website.

If you have any problems logging in, click on the “Help” link or contact the technical support staff at the UCB Educational Technology Services at: http://ets.berkeley.edu.

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The course website includes a Forum, “Comments and Queries” which will be used for a wide variety of communications among students, GSIs, and the instructor. From time to time I will post announcements (e.g., about exams) concerning the course; I may also post corrections and supplements to my lectures. Students may also post comments and questions concerning the readings, lectures, and other items relevant to psychology; note that these messages will be distributed to the entire class. Responses from the instructor or the GSIs also will be posted to the entire list, so that everyone may benefit from the exchange (so don’t post anything of a personal or confidential nature!). Please do not send questions on course content to the instructor’s private e-mail address; post them to the course website instead – so that everyone can benefit from the exchange. If you have a communication of a personal nature, such as a family emergency, you should send private e-mail to the instructor and your GSI.

To post a comment of query concerning readings, lectures, or other relevant topics:

• Go to the course website on bSpace.
• Click on “Forums” in the navigation bar on the left.
• Click on the “Comments and Queries” topic.
• Click on “Post New Thread” in the upper right of the screen.
• Give your comment or query a “Title”.
• Write your message in the “Description” box, just as you would with a text-editing program.
• Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on “Post Message”

The instructor or GSIs will try to respond within 2 business days.

Examinations

There will be one (1) midterm examination (50 points) and a final examination (100 points). Both examinations will be in short-answer and short-essay format suitable for efficient and reliable grading. The midterm examination will be conducted in class on a date announced in the attached syllabus, and is noncumulative. The final exam is mostly noncumulative as well, but will include a cumulative portion. For Spring Semester 2009, the final exam is scheduled for ****, at a place to be announced later.

Students whose academic or personal obligations may conflict with a scheduled exam should consult with the instructor in advance. In particular, students should plan their end-of-semester travel schedules to permit them to take the final exam at the scheduled time. The final exam will not be rescheduled.

There are no make-up exams. If you have a personal emergency that prevents you from taking an exam at the scheduled time, leave a telephone or E-mail message with the instructor, take care of whatever the problem is, and then consult the instructor as soon as possible afterwards.

Discussion Sections

Weekly discussion sections will be conducted by the Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs). The purpose of the discussion sections is to supplement the lectures, and to give a formal teaching experience to the graduate students serving as GSIs. Each meeting will consist of a mini-lecture, approximately 25 minutes in length, with the remainder of the class devoted to questions and discussion. Discussion sections will
Discussion sections will meet the first week.

Attendance at discussion sections is required, and both attendance and participation will count toward the final grade (25 points).

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Forum Postings

The remaining portion of the section grade (50 points) will be accrued through written work posted to the course website. There are nine (9) such exercises, and they count five (5) points each on an all-or-none basis (just like a neuron). Students will receive full credit for posting their materials to the appropriate “Forum” (corresponding to the assignment) and “Topic” (corresponding to their discussion section number) of the course website by the deadlines given in the syllabus.

- Note that the deadlines are all one minute before midnight, just like Cinderella, according to the official time recorded by the computer at the time of posting.
- Postings should be no longer than 250 words (the equivalent of one double-spaced 8 1/2 x 11” page of 12-point type). Because the essays are graded on an all-or-none basis, there is no premium on length: a 49-word essay garners the same full credit as a 249-word essay, provided that it meets the other requirements.
- Essays must be in complete sentences, with no misspellings (use your spelling and grammar checker before posting), or you may lose full credit.
- They must also be based on materials presented in lectures and readings, supplemented by your own reflections. No additional reading is required or encouraged.
- It is recommended that you prepare the essays off-line, and then upload them to the course website.

Other than with respect to pertinence and timeliness of posting, and minimal requirements of grammar and spelling, the postings will not be graded. However, the instructor, GSIs, and other students may comment on the contents of the postings (the point of the exercise is to get you writing about what you’re thinking with respect to the topics of the course). No late postings will be accepted, so pay attention to the deadlines.

To create a “Forum” posting:
- Go to the course website on bSpace.
- Click on “Forums” in the navigation bar on the left.
- Click on the Forum corresponding to the relevant assignment, such as “Forum Posting #1”.
- Click on the Topic corresponding to your discussion section, such as “Section 101, Th 12-1”.
- Click on “Post New Thread” in the upper left corner of the page.
- Give your posting a “Title”.
- Write your message in the “Description” box, just as you would with a text-editing software (in fact, you may wish to prepare your posting in advance using your favorite text editor, and then copy and paste into bSpace).
- Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on “Post Message”

Grading Policy

Final grades will be based on and on the following:
- midterm examination (50 points)
- final examination (100 points)
- attendance and participation in discussion sections (25 points)
- Forum postings (50 points).

The instructor’s policy is that the accumulation of at least 90% of the total possible points (i.e., 202 points) should result in some kind of A (i.e., A or A-), while accumulation of at least 80% of the total possible points (i.e., 180 points) should result in some kind of B (i.e., B-, B, or B+); those who accumulate more than 50% of the total possible points (i.e., more than 112 points) are guaranteed some kind of C (i.e., C-, C, or C+); those who accumulate more than 25% of the total possible points (i.e., more than 56 points) will
receive some kind of D. If necessary, the distribution of final grades in this course will be adjusted to conform to the overall distribution of grades in upper-division courses at UCB.

Changes to Your Class Schedule

Students who do not appear for their schedule discussion sections during the first three weeks of class are liable to be dropped from the course. Students may no longer automatically drop courses up to the last day of instruction. Late or retroactive “Drops for Non-Attendance” or “Adds for Attendance” will no longer be granted automatically.

Syllabus

Week 1                          Introduction

**Required:** Revonsuo, Introduction to the Book (pp. xx-xxvi), and to various portions of Part 2 (pp. 99-100, 151-152, 175-176)


**Lecture Supplement:** Introduction.

Week 2                  Introspection: The Analysis of Consciousness Required:

Revonsuo, Chapters 1-3.

**Recommended:** Farthing, Chapters, 2, 3, 7.

**Lecture Supplements:** Introspection, Psychophysics.

**Forum Posting #1**
Due 11:59 PM,
Topic: What Kind of Intentionality is Involved in Conscious *Emotional* States?

Week 3                 The Mind-Body Problem


**Recommended:** Farthing, Chapters 4, 5.

**Lecture Supplements:** Mind-Body Problem, Neural Correlates, Psychosomatics, Spirits, Zombies.

**Forum Posting #2**
Due 11:59 PM,
Topic: Is Searle’s “Biological Naturalism” Dualistic?

Week 4                        Attention and Automaticity Required:

Revonsuo, Chapters 10-11.

**Lecture Supplements:** Automaticity, Free Will.

**Forum Posting #3**
Due 11:59 PM,
Topic: Does Automaticity Compromise Free Will?

Week 5                        No Class (Presidents’ Day)
The Explicit and the Implicit Required: Revonsuo, Chapter 4-5.

Recommended: Farthing, Chapter 6.


Forum Posting #4
Due 11:59 PM, Topic: Can Motives be Unconscious?

Week 6 Anesthesia and Coma Required:
Revonsuo, Chapter 8.

Recommended: Farthing, Chapters 9, 18, 19.

Lecture Supplements: Anesthesia, Coma.

Forum Posting #5
Due 11:59 PM, Topic: What Should be the Medical Criterion for Consciousness?

Week 7 Catch-Up and Review

Week 8 Midterm Examination
Conducted in class. Multiple-choice and short-answer questions covering lectures and required readings from January 21 through March 16, inclusive. Exam must be completed in ink to be eligible for regrading.

Week 9 No Class (Spring Recess)
Read Lodge’s Thinks… while on break, in preparation for discussion in Discussion Section.

Week 10 Sleep and Dreams

Required: Revonsuo, Chapters 12-13.

Recommended: Farthing, Chapters 10-13.

Lecture Supplements: Sleep, Dreams.

Forum Posting #6
Due 11:59 PM, Topic: Are We Aware of Dreams as They Happen?

Week 11 “Hysteria” and Hypnosis

Required: Revonsuo, Chapter 14.


Recommended: Farthing, Chapters 14-16.

Forum Posting #7
Due 11:59 PM,
Topic: Does Hypnosis Relieve Pain or Only One’s Awareness of It?

Week 12       Daydreaming, Absorption, and Meditation Required:
Revonsuo, Chapter 15.

Recommended: Farthing, Chapters 8, 17.

Lecture Supplements: Absorption, Meditation.

Forum Posting #8
Due 11:59 PM,
Will the Effects of Meditation Differ, Depending on the Context, Secular or Religious?

Week 13       Consciousness and the Self Required:
Revonsuo, Chapter 6.

Lecture Supplement: Self-Consciousness.

Forum Posting #9
Due 11:59 PM,
Topic: Is There a Difference between Consciousness and Self-Consciousness?

Week 14       The Origins of Consciousness


Lecture Supplement: Development, Conclusion

Forum Posting #10
Due 11:59 PM,
Topic: Briefly Review of Lodge’s Thinks…, From the Perspective of This Course

Week 15       Final Examination
Conducted 3:00 - 6:00 PM, location to be announced. There will be a review session scheduled during the “RRR Period”, May 2 or 4. Exam must be completed in ink to be eligible for regarding.

Part I (1 hour) will be a noncumulative exam consisting of a mix of multiple-choice and short-answer questions covering lectures and required readings since March 16.

Part II (1 hour) will be a cumulative exam consisting of a mix of short-answer and short essays covering all lectures and required readings since the beginning of the course.
Psychology 222 Consciousness Spring 2011

This course will examine the nature of human consciousness from the interdisciplinary perspective of cognitive science. It is intended for graduate students; undergraduates may enroll only if they present exceptional preparation in cognitive psychology and cognitive science (including, preferably, the undergraduate version of this course), and then only by permission of the instructor.

Students enrolled in Psychology 222 are expected to attend the lectures (though not the discussion sections) for Psychology 129/Cognitive Science 102, “Scientific Approaches to Consciousness”. These lectures will be given Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 -11:00 AM. They will also participate in a separate discussion/seminar section, led by the instructor. This meeting will permit discussion of lecture material. In addition, by consensus, we may also cover a specialized topic in depth. The discussion/seminar section will meet Mondays, 12:00-2:00 PM, in 2129 Tolman.

Grades will be based on participation in the discussion sections. In addition, students are required to post a comment to the Psych 222 “Forum” on the course website, based on the readings, prior to the course session. Comments should be no more than 250 words in length (shorter is fine, so long as the comments are substantive), and can include questions – so long as the questions are in the context of a substantive comment). Comments, including queries, should be posted no later than 11:59 PM on the Sunday before the relevant class session.