

# PHIL 420/506 - Philosophy of Memory

Spring 2019

## Course Description

Focusing on a selection of key texts, this course examines core topics in contemporary philosophy of memory such as: types of memory, functions memory, mental time travel, amnesia and memory in relation to future thought, decision-making, imagination, narratives, personal identity and the self.

## Instructor

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Class: Thursday 10:40 - 13:30 / Office Hours: By Appointment

## Course text(s)

Bernecker, S., & Michaelian, K. (Eds.). (2017). *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory* (1 edition). London; New York: Routledge. [HPM]

Michaelian, K., Klein, S. B., & Szpunar, K. K. (Eds.). (2016). *Seeing the Future: Theoretical Perspectives on Future-Oriented Mental Time Travel* (1 edition). New York, NY: Oxford University Press. [MKS]

## Course Requirements.

1. *Weekly analysis papers* (20%): You must submit short (~500 words) analysis papers every week. These are not summaries. Instead, you need to provide a critical evaluation of the arguments presented in the weekly readings and raise your questions. This must be submitted by Tuesday night. *Analysis papers cannot, under any circumstances, be made up.* However, your two lowest grades will be dropped.
2. *Presentation* (15%). You will be asked to choose and present one article to the class by using powerpoint. You should have a presentation that gives a succinct overview of the various points of the article (with the assumption that your classmates have read the article but have not studied it in great detail, as you will have) and leaves time for discussion. Undergraduate students MUST meet with me before their scheduled presentation; meetings are optional for graduate students.
3. *Final project outline + presentation* (10+10%). By the middle of term, you should have selected a topic for your final project, one that either overlaps or fits well with the topics we are covering. You will need to make a start on this project by first making up a bibliography, reading and summarizing your background materials. These materials will form the central part of your “initial findings” along with a short statement (2-3 pages) of the form your final project will take. As you develop your ideas further, you will then do a short-presentation to the class at the last week of classes.
4. *Final project* (30%). This is a term-paper. The purpose of this paper is to explore some argument or thesis from the course in depth. Students are free to choose their own topic. Undergraduates are limited to ten (10 pages, double-spaced, 12 point). Master students are limited to fifteen (15 pages, double spaced, 12 point).

5. *Class participation* (%15): Students are expected to do all the readings and come to class prepared to discuss the theses and arguments in the readings. I will presuppose this and so reserve the right to call on you.

Attendance to all classes is required. If you'll miss a class for some reason, let me know in advance.

Students will not be accepted to the class after we start. If you are late for a class, please wait outside until the break.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students suspected of plagiarism will be summarily turned in to the Academic Integrity Office.

## **Course Schedule and Readings**

### **Week 1 Th 7/2: The Nature of Memory**

HPM Ch. 1: Werning & Cheng, Taxonomy and unity of memory,

### **Week 2 Th 14/2: The Metaphysics of Memory**

HPM Ch. 4: Bernecker, Memory and Truth

Robins (2016) "Representing the Past: Memory Traces and the Causal Theory of Memory"  
*Philosophical Studies* 1-21

### **Week 3 Th 21/2: The Contents of Memory**

Sant'Anna, A. (2018). The Hybrid Contents of Memory. *Synthese*.

### **Week 4 Th 28/2: Mental Time Travel**

HPM Ch. 18, Perrin and Michaelian, Memory as Mental Time Travel

De Brigard, F. D. (2013). "Is memory for remembering? Recollection as a form of episodic hypothetical thinking." *Synthese*, 191(2), 155-185.

### **Week 5 Th 7/3: Memory, Imagination and Phenomenology**

HPM Ch. 10 De Brigard, Memory and Imagination

Boyle, A. (2019). The impure phenomenology of episodic memory. *Mind & Language*.

### **Week 6 Th 14/3 : Amnesia**

Craver, C.F. (2012). A Preliminary Case for Amnesic Selves: Toward a Clinical Moral Psychology. *Social Cognition*: Vol. 30, Special Issue: What is the Self?, pp. 449-473.

Hassabis, D., & Maguire, E. A. (2007). Deconstructing episodic memory with construction. *Trends in cognitive sciences*, 11(7), 299-306.

Keven, N., Kurczek, J., Rosenbaum, R. S., & Craver, C. F. (2017). Narrative construction is intact in episodic amnesia. *Neuropsychologia*.

### **Week 7 Th 21/3: Spring Break**

### **Week 8 Th 28/3: The Functions of Memory**

Mahr and Csibra (2018) "What is Episodic Memory For?" *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. Vol.41

### **Week 9 Th 4/4: Temporal Cognition**

Hoerl and McCormack (2019) "Thinking in and about time: A dual systems perspective on temporal cognition" *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.

MKS Ch. 8 de Brigard and Gysel "Time is Not of the Essence: Understanding the Neural Correlates of Mental Time Travel"

### **Week 10 Th 11/4: Developmental and Comparative Approaches**

Suddendorf, T., Addis, D. R., & Corballis, M. C. (2009). Mental time travel and the shaping of the human mind. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 364(1521), 1317-1324.

Salwiczek, L. H., Watanabe, A., & Clayton, N. S. (2010). Ten years of research into avian models of episodic-like memory and its implications for developmental and comparative cognition. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 215(2), 221-234.

### **Week 11 Th 18/4: Memory and Animals**

Malanowski, S. (2016) Is episodic memory uniquely human? Evaluating the episodic-like memory research program. *Synthese* 193: 1433.

Keven, N. (2016). Events, Narratives and Memory. *Synthese*, 193(8), 2497-2517.

### **Week 12 Th 25/4: Autobiographical Memory**

Conway, M. A., & Pleydell-Pearce, C. W. (2000). The construction of autobiographical memories in the self-memory system. *Psychological Review*, 107(2), 261-288.

Fivush, R. (2011). The Development of Autobiographical Memory. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 62(1), 559-582.

### **Week 13 Th 2/5: Social Dimensions of Memory**

Coman, A., Brown, A. D., Koppel, J., & Hirst, W. (2009). Collective Memory from a Psychological Perspective. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society IJPS*, 22(2), 125-141.

Barnier, Amanda J., John Sutton, Celia B. Harris, and Robert A. Wilson, 2008, "A Conceptual and Empirical Framework for the Social Distribution of Cognition: The Case of Memory", *Cognitive Systems Research*, 9(1): 33–51.

**Week 14 Th 9/5: Memory and Narrativity**

Schechtman, M. (2011). The Narrative Self. In S. Gallagher (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Self*. Oxford University Press.

Velleman, J. D. (2005). The Self as Narrator. In *Autonomy and the Challenges to Liberalism: New Essays*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Week 15 Th 16/5: Student Presentations**