

PHIL 4352/5352: MEMORY

Spring 2013

Main 205

MW 15:00–16:20

Dr. Sarah Robins

skrobins@utep.edu

(915) 747.6263

Office Hours:

Worrell Hall 302

Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00–3:00 and by appointment

TEXTS:

There is no textbook for this course. All readings will be available on Blackboard as PDFs (by author last name, which is written in bold on the course schedule). Please let me if you have difficulty accessing the readings.

Note: for some of our sessions, I have listed optional readings. These are truly optional, but are recommended to anyone with particular interest in that week's topic. These papers will be available on Blackboard as well.

Course Description:

Memory is an important cognitive capacity, and as such, many prominent philosophers have offered theories of memory and have recruited memory to address puzzles that arise in discussing other philosophical questions. In this course, we'll explore both of these aspects of the philosophy of memory.

We'll spend the first half of our course exploring various philosophical theories of memory. Our approach will be broadly historical: we'll start with Aristotle, then transition to representational and realist views in the early modern period, and finish with contemporary analytic theories of memory. For the second half, we will switch gears and explore ways in which memory informs (and complicates) philosophical questions about the nature of personal identity, agency, self-knowledge, and the mind.

Course Objectives:

The aim of this course is to give you a broad overview of philosophy, using memory as the common thread. By the end of this course, you should have good working knowledge of views of the mind that have been prominent at distinct periods in the history of philosophy, as well as a familiarity with philosophical debates about personal identity, self-knowledge, and the extended mind. Throughout the course, we'll emphasize the importance of learning how to read and respond to a philosophical text. Specifically, we will work to strengthen your philosophical writing. So in addition to learning about particular ideas and theories, you'll be further developing your ability to assess and produce philosophically compelling arguments.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Part One: Theories of Memory

Week 1

Wednesday 1/23: Introduction

No assigned reading

Week 2

Monday 1/28: Aristotle on Memory

Aristotle, selections from *On Memory and Recollection*

Optional reading: Julia **Annas** (1986). Aristotle on Memory and the Self." *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy*, 4, 99-117.

Wednesday 1/30: Representational View of Memory

David **Hume** (1739-40). *A Treatise of Human Nature*. Bk. 1 Sect. 1-4.

John **Locke** (1690). *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Ch. 10: Of Retention.

Optional reading: John Sutton, "Memory," Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/memory/>

Week 3

Monday 2/4: **NO CLASS**

Wednesday 2/6:

Thomas **Reid** (1785). *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*. Essay III: Memory. A.D. Woozley ed., Macmillan Press.

Optional reading: Rebecca Copenhaver's "Reid on Memory and Personal Identity," Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/reid-memory-identity/>

Week 4

Monday 2/11:

David **Owens** (1966). A Lockean Theory of Memory Experience, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 56, 319-332.

Wednesday 2/13:

Rebecca **Copenhaver** (2006). Thomas Reid's Theory of Memory, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, 23, 171-189.

Week 5

Monday 2/18:

Andy **Hamilton** (2003). Scottish Commonsense About Memory: A Defence of Thomas Reid's Direct Knowledge Account, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 81, 229-245.

Wednesday 2/20:

Norman **Malcolm** (1970). Memory and Representation, *Noûs*, 4, 59-71.

Week 6:

Monday 2/25: **TOPICS DISTRIBUTED FOR MIDTERM PAPER**

C. B. **Martin** and Max **Deutscher** (1966). Remembering. *Philosophical Review*, 75, 161-196.

Optional Reading:

Deborah **Rosen** (1975). An argument for the logical notion of a memory trace. *Philosophy of Science*, 42, 1-10.

Wednesday 2/27: **NO CLASS**. Work on midterm papers.

Week 7

Monday 3/4:

Dorothea **Debus** (2010). Accounting for Epistemic Relevance: A new problem for the causal theory of memory. *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 47, 17-29.

Optional Reading:

Sven **Bernecker** (2010). *Memory: A Philosophical Study*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, Ch. 4 and Ch. 5

Wednesday 3/6:

E.M. **Zemach** (1983). Memory: What it is and What it Cannot Possibly Be, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 44, 31-44.

Optional Reading:

John **Heil** (1977). Traces of Things Past, *Philosophy of Science*, 45, 60-72.

Week 8

Monday 3/11:

M.R. **Bennett** and P.M.S. **Hacker** (2003). *Philosophical Foundations of Neuroscience*, Wiley-Blackwell. Ch. 5: The Cognitive Powers.

Wednesday 3/13: **MIDTERM PAPER DUE, IN CLASS.**

Kourken **Michaelian** (2011). Generative Memory, *Philosophical Psychology*, 24, 323-342.

Optional Reading:

Ulric **Neisser** (1967). *Cognitive Psychology*, Ch. 11: A Cognitive Approach to Memory and Thought.

3/18-3/22: SPRING BREAK

Week 9:

Monday 3/25:

Julia **Driver** (2009). Memory, desire, and value in *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. In C. Grau (ed.) *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (Philosophers on Film)*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Students are also asked to screen the movie *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (access will be provided).

Wednesday 3/27: **NO CLASS**

Week 10:

Monday 4/1:

John **Locke** (1690). *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Ch. 27: Of Identity and Diversity.

Optional Reading:

Gustafsson, J. E. (2010). Did Locke Defend the Memory Continuity Criterion of Personal Identity? *Locke Studies*, 10, 113-129.

Wednesday 4/3:

Sydney **Shoemaker** (1970). Persons and Their Pasts, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 7, 269-285.

Optional Reading:

Eric T. **Olsen**, "Personal Identity" Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/identity-personal/>

Week 11:

Monday 4/8:

Marc **Slors** (2001). Personal Identity, Memory, and Circularity: An Alternative for Q-Memory, *The Journal of Philosophy*, 98, 186-214.

Wednesday 4/10:

Marya **Schechtman** (1994). The Truth About Memory, *Philosophical Psychology*, 7, 3-18.

Week 12:

Monday 4/15:

Christoph **Hoerl** (1999). Memory, Amnesia, and the Past, *Mind and Language*, 14, 227-251.

Teresa **McCormack** (1999). Temporal Concepts and Episodic Memory: A Response To Hoerl, *Mind and Language*, 14, 252-262.

Optional Reading:

John **Campbell** (1997). The Structure of Time in Autobiographical Memory, *European Journal of Philosophy*, 5, 105-118.

Wednesday 4/17: **TOPICS DISTRIBUTED FOR MIDTERM PAPER**

Andy **Hamilton** (2007). Memory and self-consciousness: Immunity to error through misidentification. *Synthese*, 171, 409–417.

Optional Reading:

Tyler **Burge** (2004). Memory and Persons, *Philosophical Review*, 112, 289-337.

Week 13:

Monday 4/22:

Carl **Craver** (forthcoming). A Preliminary Case for Amnesic Selves.

Wednesday 4/24:

Galen **Strawson** (2007) Episodic Ethics. *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement*, 82, 85-116.

Optional Reading:

Wilma **Koustaal** (1995). Situating Ethics and Memory, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 32, 253-262.

Week 14:

Monday 4/29:

Andy **Clark** and David **Chalmers** (1998). The Extended Mind, *Analysis*, 58, 7-19.

Tuesday, 4/30: FINAL PAPER DRAFT DUE, 5PM.

Wednesday 5/1: **Peer Review Assignment distributed.**

Fred **Adams** & Kenneth **Aizawa** (2001). The bounds of cognition. *Philosophical Psychology*, 14, 43-64.

Week 15:

Monday 5/6

Andy **Clark** (2004). Intrinsic content, active memory, and the extended mind, *Analysis*, 65, 1-11.

Wednesday 5/8: **PEER REVIEW DUE, IN CLASS.**

Robert **Rupert** (2005). Challenges to the Hypothesis of Extended Cognition. *Journal of Philosophy*, 101, 389-428.

Finals Week:

Wednesday 5/15: **FINAL PAPER DUE, 5PM**