

DPHY 5478A/DPHY 6478A Issues in Philosophy of Memory

Time: Thursday 1.30-4.30 pm, room 202

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Office hours: Thursday, 12-1 pm

Course Objective:

The main objective of the course is to give a historical as well as topical overview of the rapidly gaining popularity field of philosophy of memory. Philosophy of memory is intimately linked to philosophy of mind, and more specifically, the personal identity debate. The seminar will combine two elements: a historical and a topical one. For the first part, we will look into the classical theories of memory of Aristotle, St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, John Locke, Thomas Reid, as well as some contemporary theories of memory as developed by Bertrand Russell, and Henri Bergson. The topics that will be explored in the seminar range from memory and meaning construction, memory and self, memory and time, to memory and morality, and memory and society.

Course Evaluation:

1. In-class presentation (20%): One in-class presentation on any of the topics/segments from the course pack. The presentation should focus on one of the topics to be covered in the class. The presenter may choose a historical figure and present his/her views on memory, or a segment from the topical part of the course material. The oral presentation may be on the same topic as the final research paper. The presenter will be graded on the clarity and depth of their presentation. Handouts and other aides are encouraged.

2. Research paper proposal (20%): The research proposal, normally around five pages long in total, should provide the basis of the research paper. It should draw on the concepts and themes of the course. The proposal should (1) state the importance and relevance of the topic chosen, (2) have a clear research question, (3) have a clear thesis statement, and (4) give an indication of preliminary findings. At least two sources from the course pack should be included in the bibliography. The proposal is due no later than Thursday, **March 5th, 2020**.

3. Research term paper (60%): The research paper, approximately 15 pages in length, is due one week after the last day of classes (when the final exam would have been). The topic must be

related to the course. In writing your paper you should follow one of the standard styles of writing and citation (it is suggested to follow the MLA style of citation). You need at least five sources in your bibliography.

Late paper policy:

Please submit your written assignments directly to the professor via email. If you prefer electronic communication, please allow at least 24 hours for an electronic response. Exemption from exams, assignments or term papers due dates will be granted **only upon** presentation of a valid and verifiable medical or other documentation. It is the responsibility of the student to advise the professor well in advance (at least a week) if there is a possibility, that the student may miss a due date for a take-home assignment or an in-class exam or presentation. Late assignments will be penalized with a **10%** deduction of the final mark for every day of procrastination.

Required readings:

There will be a course pack for this course.

Authors included in part 1:

1. Aristotle, excerpt, *On Memory and Reminiscence*. Special presentation by **Evan Strevell**.
2. St. Augustine, excerpt, *Confessions*, Book X, Chapter 8-25, Book XI. Chapters 27-28.
3. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, Ia, q. 79, articles 6 and 7; in IaIIae, q. 32, articles 3 and 4 and q. 33 article 2; IIaIIae qu. 48 and q. 49 article 1. Special presentation by **Maxime Allard**.
4. John Locke, *Essays Concerning Human Understanding*, Book II, chapters 8-10, and 14.
5. Thomas Reid, Memory: No. 3 of *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*
6. Henri Bergson, *Matter and Memory*, excerpt. Special presentation by **Rodney Parker**.
7. Bertrand Russell, *The Analysis of Mind*, Chapter 10, On Memory.

Topical texts included in part 2:

1. "Remembering" by C.B. Martin and Max Deutscher, in *The Philosophical Review*, 1966
2. "Memory Causation" by Dorothea Debus, in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory*, 2017
3. "Memory and Consciousness" by Paula Droege, in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory*, 2017
4. "Memory and Self-Consciousness" by José Luis Bermúdez, in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory*, 2017.
5. "Memory and Emotion" by Ronald de Souza, in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory*, 2017

6. “Memory and Personal Identity”, by Shaun Nichols, in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory*, 2017
7. “The Truth about Memory” by Marya Schechtman
8. “Extended Memory” by Tobert W. Clowes, in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory*, 2017
9. “Collective Memory” by Jeffrey Andrew Barash, in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory*, 2017
10. “Memory and Social Identity” by Robyn Fivush and Matthew Graci, in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory*, 2017
11. “A Duty to Remember” by Jeffrey Blustein, in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory*, 2017
12. “An Obligation to Forget” by David Matheson, in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory*, 2017
13. Special presentation on memory and trauma by Rob Davies: Caruth, C. (1995). “Introduction to Part II: Recapturing the Past”. In Caruth, C., (Eds.), *Trauma: Explorations in Memory*. Krause Shobe, K. and Kihlstrom, J. F. (1997). Is Traumatic Memory Special? Current Directions in Psychological Science, 6, (3), 70–74. Porter, Stephen, and Angela R. Birt. (2001). “Is Traumatic Memory Special? A Comparison of Traumatic Memory Characteristics with Memory for Other Emotional Life Experiences.” *Applied Cognitive Psychology* 15, no. 7: S101–17. Rowlands, M. (2015) “Rilkean Memory”. *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*. Volume 53, Spindel Supplement 2015. Van der Kolk, B. and van der Hart, O. (1995). “The Intrusive Past: The Flexibility of Memory”. In Caruth, C., (Eds.), *Trauma: Explorations in Memory*.