

## Recent Announcements

# FA19: PERSPECTIVES SCI:SOCIAL&HIST: 37208

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## "The Brain. Science and Philosophy"

### Fall 2019 Schedule and Syllabus

Room: BH 338

Time: 5.00 P - 7:00P / MW

Instructor: (Prof.) Ann-Sophie Barwich <abarwich@iu.edu>

Office hours: Monday 1.30P - 3.30P (please email me to schedule).

### ***Course Description***

A popular meme states: "The brain is the most important organ you have. According to the brain." Neuroscience is a relatively recent area of study, however. A series of revolutionary experiments in the 1950s founded the field of modern neuroscience. In this course, we will examine basic concepts and important experiments in modern brain science. We will also discuss whether neuroscience can replace the study of traditional philosophical concepts such as the origins of thought, perception, and emotion.

Background knowledge in neuroscience or philosophy is not required.

### ***Attendance, Assignments, and Grading***

There are no scheduled examinations. The grade is determined by scheduled in-class presentations, mandatory attendance, and in-class participation.

Active participation and respect by all enrolled students is expected. Prompt and regular attendance is expected barring extraordinary circumstances.

Bring a notebook to take notes. Turn off cell phone ringers during class. NO LAPTOPS.

You are responsible for checking your official IU email account regularly for course communications.

The grade is distributed as follows (400 points):

Attendance: 100 points

In-class participation: 100 points

In-class research presentation (week 12): 200 points

### **Texts:**

The course centers on one book, required for class:

- Koch, Christof. *Consciousness: Confessions of a romantic reductionist*. MIT Press, 2012.

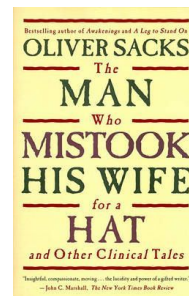
A second book you will require for week 12:

- Sacks, Oliver. *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, and Other Clinical Tales*. Summit Books, 1985.

Both books are affordable and can be acquired via booksellers, Amazon, and other venues. Check out second-hand options, too.

All other texts for this course are in "Files" as pdfs (weeks 1 and 14).

Make sure to bring the assigned reading to class for discussion.



## **THE SYLLABUS**

(This syllabus may be subject to change as needed at the professor's discretion. If changes are made, notice will be given in class in advance.)

Week 9

Monday, Oct 21: *Introduction*

General Introduction to the class themes and course format

Wednesday, Oct 23: *The Hard Problem*

Reading: Chalmers, David. 1995. "The puzzle of conscious experience." *Scientific American* 273(6), 80-86. (incl. Christoph Koch part)

Week 10

Monday, Oct 28: *The Mind-Body Problem*

Reading: Koch, *Consciousness*: Chapter 1.

Wednesday, Oct 30: *Consciousness and the Scientific Worldview*

Reading: Koch, *Consciousness*: Chapter 3.

Week 11

Monday, Nov 4: *Is Unconscious Processing helping us to understand Consciousness?*

Reading: Koch, *Consciousness*: Chapter 4.

Wednesday, Nov 6: *And what do Neurons have to say about this?*

Reading: Koch, *Consciousness*: Chapter 5.

Week 12: OLIVER SACKS

Monday, Nov 11:

First round of presentations: Sacks, *The Man who mistook his Wife for a Hat*.

Wednesday, Nov 13:

Second round of presentations: Sacks, *The Man who mistook his Wife for a Hat*.

Week 13

Monday, Nov 18: *Are you controlled by Zombie Agents?*

Reading: Koch, Consciousness: Chapter 6.

Wednesday, Nov 20: *Free Will (yes, you're still required to come to class)*

Reading: Koch, Consciousness: Chapter 7.

**THANKSGIVING**Week 14

Monday, Dec 2: *Qualia and the Identity Thesis*

Reading: Churchland, Patricia. 1983. Neurophilosophy. Bradford Books/MIT Press; Chapter 8.

Wednesday, Dec 4: *Towards a Scientific Theory of Consciousness*

Reading: Koch, Consciousness: Chapter 8.

Week 14

Monday, Dec 9: *How to measure Consciousness?*

Reading: Koch, Consciousness: Chapter 9.

Wednesday, Dec 11:

TBA.




Week 16: FINALS WEEK (no class) - good luck!

**THE BRAIN IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
ORGAN YOU HAVE**



**ACCORDING TO THE BRAIN.**

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Nov 18, 2019	 <b><u>In-Class Presentation (Oliver Sacks)</u></b> <a href="https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1823780/assignments/9903931">https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1823780/assignments/9903931</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 11, 2019	 <b><u>In Class Participation</u></b> <a href="https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1823780/assignments/9903934">https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1823780/assignments/9903934</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <b><u>Roll Call Attendance</u></b> <a href="https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1823780/assignments/9864836">https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1823780/assignments/9864836</a>	