

**PHIL0214-2 - Philosophy of Mind**  
**Perception, Emotions, and Moods**  
**Syllabus**

Instructor: Anna Giustina

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Office Hours: Tuesday 15:00 – 17:00, by appointment only.

**Time:** Tuesday 13:00 – 15:00

**Place:** A1 2/Philosophie 1

**Course Description**

Our conscious mind features a variety of mental phenomena: perceptions, bodily sensations, algedonic sensations (pain and pleasure), thoughts, desires, memories, imagination, emotions, moods... Each kind of mental phenomenon has a different function in our cognitive architecture; and each is associated with a certain phenomenology: each comes with a specific *subjective feeling* and contributes to sprinkle our inner conscious life with a panoply of experiential qualities. In this course, we will focus on three of these phenomena: perception, emotion, and mood. Perception is our primary connection with the world, its main function being providing us with information about our surroundings. Emotions are a central (sometimes destabilizing) element of our inner life. They play a crucial role in motivating our actions, affect our interaction with our environment and with other people, and may reveal to us what we care about and what we do not—our values. Moods pervasively color our stream of consciousness and shape the way we experience and think about the world, and how we live through our lives. We are going to investigate these three kinds of mental phenomena, their structure and phenomenology, by considering and evaluating different philosophical theories about them.

**Course objectives and Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course, you will (i) have acquired an understanding of the most important philosophical issues about conscious mental phenomena, especially perception, emotion, and moods; (ii) have strengthened your ability to analyze a philosophical text, critically evaluate a philosophical argument, develop your own philosophical ideas, and actively engage in philosophical discussion; (iii) appreciate the value of the philosophical debate around conscious mental phenomena; (iv) have developed a deeper appreciation of the place and importance of perception, emotion, and mood in human life.

## **Prerequisite**

Understanding of written English is required.

## **Reading list**

A reading list is provided in the “Schedule and reading” section below. Required readings will be available on MyUliege. Each reading must be done in advance of the lectures for which they are assigned.

## **Evaluation**

- Five reading responses of half a page/one page (20% of the final grade).
- A 1500/2000-word essay to be submitted before December 14<sup>th</sup> (30% of the final grade);
- A 2000/3000-word essay to be submitted before January 29<sup>th</sup> (50% of the final grade);
- Participation in class will be tie-breaker.

As for essays, list of topics will be provided. I have very specific standards as to how an essay should be written. They are specified in the attached document: “How to write a good essay in philosophy.”

The reading responses will be on required readings (i.e., readings on weeks 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10). A reading response consists in explaining and/or commenting on some aspect of the required reading for the week it is submitted. Out of the six required readings, you will have to submit at least five reading responses.

Attendance is required.

## **Academic Integrity**

If, in your written work, you present someone else’s words or ideas as your own, or if you do not credit the source of those words and ideas, you are committing plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic integrity. So, if you use someone else’s words or ideas, always credit their author, either by adding reference to the source (if you rephrase the idea with your own words), or by inserting the text between inverted commas (if you are quoting someone else’s words). Plagiarizing essays will be failed.

## **Disabilities Statement**

Students with a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance should be sure to contact the Student Quality of Life Department – Support for students with disabilities at the University of Liège and to talk to me about ensuring that the lecture, assignments, exams, class discussion, and so on present no undo problems for them.

## **Syllabus Change Policy**

This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

## Schedule and reading

1. Introduction. 28/09/2021

### Module I. Perception

2. Introduction to philosophy of perception. 05/08/2021

Recommended reading: William Fish, *Philosophy of Perception*, Ch. 1 “Introduction”

3. Naïve Realism. 12/10/2021

Required reading: Heather Logue, “Why Naïve Realism?”

4. Representationalism. 19/10/2021

Required reading: Adam Pautz, “Experiences Are Representations: An Empirical Argument”

### Module II. Emotions

5. Introduction to philosophy of emotion. 26/10/2021

Recommended reading: Julien Deonna and Fabrice Teroni, “Emotional Experience: Affective Consciousness and Its Role in Emotion Theory”

6. Feeling theories. 02/11/2021

Required reading: William James, “What Is an Emotion?”

7. Primitivism. 09/11/2021

Required reading: Michelle Montague, “The Logic, Intentionality, and Phenomenology of Emotion”

### Module III. Moods

8. Introduction to philosophy of mood. 16/11/2021

Recommended reading: Amy Kind, “The Case against Representationalism about Moods”

9. Intentionalism about moods. 23/11/2021

Required reading: Angela Mendelovici, “Intentionalism about Moods”

10. Anti-intentionalism about moods. 07/12/2021

Required reading: Uriah Kriegel, “The Intentional Structure of Moods”

11. Conclusion. 14/12/2021

**Note:** There will be no class on November 30, due to concomitance with the *3rd Conference of the Network for Phenomenological Research*, “Inner Awareness: Past and Present,” in which you are warmly invited to participate.

**Also:** I intend to schedule a catch-up/review session in the middle of the semester (date and time to be discussed with students).

## Bibliography

- Deonna, Julien, and Fabrice Teroni. 2020. “Emotional Experience: Affective Consciousness and Its Role in Emotion Theory.” In *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Consciousness*, edited by Uriah Kriegel, 102–23. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Fish, William. 2010. *Philosophy of Perception: A Contemporary Introduction*. New York: Routledge.
- James, William. 1884. “What Is an Emotion?” *Mind* 9: 188–205.
- Kind, Amy. 2014. “The Case against Representationalism about Moods.” In *Current Controversies in Philosophy of Mind*, edited by Uriah Kriegel, 113–34. London; New York: Routledge.
- Kriegel, Uriah. 2019. “The Intentional Structure of Moods.” *Philosophers’ Imprint* 19: 1–19.
- Logue, Heather. 2012. “Why Naive Realism?” *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 112: 211–37.
- Mendelovici, Angela. 2013. “Intentionalism About Moods.” *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy* 2 (1): 126–36.
- Montague, Michelle. 2009. “The Logic, Intentionality, and Phenomenology of Emotion.” *Philosophical Studies: An International Journal for Philosophy in the Analytic Tradition* 145 (2): 171–92.
- Pautz, Adam. 2017. “Experiences Are Representations: An Empirical Argument.” In *Current Controversies in the Philosophy of Perception*, edited by Bence Nanay, 23–42. New York; London: Routledge.