



PHIL707

Research Topics in Philosophy and Cognitive Science

S1 External 2016

Dept of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lecturer

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by negotiation

Lecturer

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores some of the cutting edge research questions at the forefront of cognitive science and the philosophy of cognition. The unit explores philosophical problems that arise from the core disciplines of cognitive psychology, cognitive neuropsychology, linguistics, neuroscience and AI and robotics. Topics to be covered may include: embodied and distributed cognition; disorders of the mind; folk psychology and theory of mind; the use of FMRI to understand brain function; is the brain massively modular; can cognitive science explain consciousness, or the self?

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of cognitive science and philosophy.

Articulate, clearly and coherently, philosophical arguments in written and oral form at an advanced level

Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level

Demonstrate advanced knowledge of course content and develop a coherent and extended philosophical argument in a research essay

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Weekly questions on reading</u>	5%	Each week online
<u>Essay Plan</u>	5%	week 12
<u>Presentation</u>	30%	Week 12
<u>Research Essay</u>	60%	Week 14

Weekly questions on reading

Due: **Each week online**

Weighting: **5%**

Each week a set of questions on the weekly readings will be posted online. You will be expected to post your answers and engage in discussion of the readings each week.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of cognitive science and philosophy.
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of course content and develop a coherent and extended philosophical argument in a research essay

Essay Plan

Due: **week 12**

Weighting: **5%**

Brief plan and outline of your essay.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of cognitive science and philosophy.
- Articulate, clearly and coherently, philosophical arguments in written and oral form at an

advanced level

- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of course content and develop a coherent and extended philosophical argument in a research essay

Presentation

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **30%**

Presentation to the class on the background to your essay topic and an outline of your essay. 20 minute presentation, 10 minute discussion. As an external student you will record your lecture and upload it to learn for feedback.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of cognitive science and philosophy.
- Articulate, clearly and coherently, philosophical arguments in written and oral form at an advanced level
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level

Research Essay

Due: **Week 14**

Weighting: **60%**

Research Essay on a topic covered in the course. Title and topic to be agreed with the course leaders by week 10.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of cognitive science and philosophy.
- Articulate, clearly and coherently, philosophical arguments in written and oral form at an advanced level
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of course content and develop a coherent and extended philosophical argument in a research essay

Delivery and Resources

2 hour seminar, online activities.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016 http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html. For more information visit http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)

- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level

Assessment tasks

- Presentation
- Research Essay

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of cognitive science and philosophy.
- Articulate, clearly and coherently, philosophical arguments in written and oral form at an

advanced level

- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of course content and develop a coherent and extended philosophical argument in a research essay

Assessment tasks

- Weekly questions on reading
- Essay Plan
- Presentation
- Research Essay

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Articulate, clearly and coherently, philosophical arguments in written and oral form at an advanced level
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of course content and develop a coherent and extended philosophical argument in a research essay

Assessment tasks

- Weekly questions on reading
- Essay Plan
- Presentation
- Research Essay

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of cognitive science and philosophy.
- Articulate, clearly and coherently, philosophical arguments in written and oral form at an advanced level
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of course content and develop a coherent and extended philosophical argument in a research essay

Assessment tasks

- Weekly questions on reading
- Essay Plan
- Presentation
- Research Essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Articulate, clearly and coherently, philosophical arguments in written and oral form at an advanced level
- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of course content and develop a coherent and extended philosophical argument in a research essay

Assessment tasks

- Weekly questions on reading
- Essay Plan
- Presentation
- Research Essay

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of

connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level

Assessment tasks

- Presentation
- Research Essay