PHIL707
Research Topics in Philosophy and Cognitive Science
S1 External 2016

Dept of Philosophy

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General Information

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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://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

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

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

**Assessment Tasks**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly questions on reading</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Each week online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Plan</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>week 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
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**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.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- 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.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

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- 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.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:  
- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the methodology, concepts and arguments of cognitive science and philosophy.  
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- 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.

This Assessment Task relates to the following 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

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:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://policycentral.mq.edu.au) 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/](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](http://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/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://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 Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

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 - 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.
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- Analyse and critically evaluate philosophical arguments at an advanced level
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**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 - 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 - 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
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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.
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• 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
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• 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