

PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY

The Senses

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Phil 234, Winter 2008
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Course Description

An empirically informed philosophical investigation of the nature and role of the senses. Topics include conceptions of the senses in philosophy and psychology, the individuation of the senses, and the relationships between sensation and perception. Attention will be devoted to theoretical issues arising from vision, audition, the chemical senses, the bodily senses, synesthesia, cross-modal illusions, and non-human senses.

Coursework

1. Attendance, preparation, and participation are essential to your success in this class. Collectively, they are worth 1/5 of your grade.
2. Two short essays, due **W 1/30**, **F 3/21**: 1/5 each
3. Midterm quiz (**F 2/15**) and final exam (**W 4/9**, 8:00a): 1/5 each

Topics

Part I. Philosophy and the Senses

Why the Senses?

'The Senses'

Individuating the Senses

Part II. Philosophies of the Senses

Vision and Seeing

Audition and Hearing

The Chemical Senses: Smell and Taste

Tactile, Kinaesthetic, and Proprioceptive Senses

Part III. Sensory Exotica

Synesthesia

Molyneux's Question

Cross-Modal Illusions

Alien Senses

A Philosophy of the Senses

Readings

Articles, chapters, and selections posted to *Lyceum* (lyceum.bates.edu)

Tentative Schedule

Subject to change

- M 1-7 Introduction and Background
[Plato, *Republic* selections from Republic, book VII]
[Descartes, Meditation 1]
[Locke, *Essay*, I.i-ii, II.i-iii, viii, xxiii]
[Crane, 'The Problem of Perception,' *SEP*]
- W 1-9 Maclachlan, 'Perception and Empirical Knowledge'
Geldard, 'Introduction,' Chapter 1 of *The Human Senses*
[O'Callaghan, 'Perception']
- M 1-14 Aristotle, *De Anima*, II.5-12, III.1-2
- W 1-16 Grice, 'Some Remarks about the Senses'
- W 1-23 Heil, 'The Senses', ch. 1 of *Perception and Cognition*
- F 1-25 Keeley, 'Making Sense of the Senses'
- W 1-30 Gibson, *The Senses Considered as Perceptual Systems*, pp. 1-30:
'Introduction', 'The Environment as a Source of Stimulation'
Essay #1 due
- F 2-1 Nudds, 'The Significance of the Senses'
- W 2-6 O'Regan and Noë, 'A Sensorimotor Account of Vision and Visual Consciousness'
Noë, 'On What We See'
- F 2-8 Nudds, 'The Senses as Psychological Kinds'
- W 2-13 Review
- F 2-15 **Midterm Exam**
- W 2-27 Pasnau, 'What is Sound?'
[Liane Young visit]
- F 2-29 O'Callaghan, 'Audition', 'Sounds'
Levitin, selections from *This is Your Brain on Music*
- W 3-5 Lycan, 'The Slighting of Smell'

- F 3-7 Batty, 'The Representational Content of Olfactory Experience'
- W 3-12 Martin, 'Sight and Touch'
- F 3-14 Proprioception and Kinesthesia; reading tba
- M 3-17 Macpherson, 'Synesthesia'
- W 3-19 No lecture, meet with revision partner and writing assistant
- F 3-21 No class
Essay #2 due
- W 3-26 Degenaar and Lokhorst, 'Molyneux's Problem', *SEP*
- F 3-28 Campbell, 'Molyneux's Question'
- W 4-2 McGurk and MacDonald, 'Hearing Lips and Seeing Voices'
Shams et al. 'What You See Is What You Hear'
O'Callaghan, 'Seeing What You Hear: Cross-Modal Illusions and Perception'
- F 4-4 Hughes, selections from *Sensory Exotica*
- W 4-9 **Final Exam, 8:00am**