PSYCHOLOGY 7810

PHENOMENOLOGY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

SYLLABUS

GENERAL INFORMATION
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
For Husserl, the founder of phenomenology, consciousness was “the wonder of wonders. Or to put this theme another, more contemporary way, Chalmers has pointed out that: “The really hard problem of consciousness is the problem of experience. When we think and perceive... there is something it is like to be a conscious organism. This subjective aspect is experience.”

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The objectives are that students develop: 1) an understanding of the phenomenology of consciousness; 2) an understanding of the role of this phenomenology for psychology; and 3) an ability to express, orally and in writing, these comprehensions.

REQUIRED TEXTS
The required readings for this course will consist of a diverse range of selected readings from the texts of many authors. The references for all readings (required and optional) are cited in the Course Outline, and complete bibliographic information provided in the Bibliography. The major texts will include the following:

- Edmund Husserl, Philosophy and the Crisis of European Man
- Edmund Husserl, Philosophy as Rigorous Science
- Edmund Husserl, The Crisis of European Sciences
- Ezarim Kohak, Idea and Experience
- Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Phenomenology of Perception
- Richard Zaner, The Way of Phenomenology

FORMAT AND EVALUATION
Students are expected to participate actively. Half of the course grade will be based on these three equally weighted participatory factors: 1) contributions to classroom discussion; 2) weekly one-paragraph answers to the “Key Question”; 3) two-page reflection papers, submitted every two weeks. The other half of the course grade is based on the demonstration of what was cumulatively learned by the end of the course, via a final examination that includes both take-home and in-class style questions.