College of Social Sciences
PSYC 8000 Section 01
Consciousness and Experience

Fall 2019

Instructor Information
Instructor: Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore
Class Meeting/Time & Location Wednesdays 9.30-12.50 in Melson 213
Office Location: Melson 215
Telephone (direct) 678 839 5334 you can also text (678) 390-5033
Telephone (department) 678 839 5334

Support for courses
*Hyperlinks provided for accessibility throughout; full URLs are available at the end of the document.

Course Information

Course Description
This study of current approaches to consciousness, especially in light of one's own inner life and with particular attention to the emergence of consciousness, its nature, development, differentiations, and potential deformations and to its role in grounding, shaping, constituting, and orientating human experience.

Texts, Readings, Instructional Resources and References

Required Texts
We will use 3 text books that each adopt different perspectives on the subject matter.

August 13th, 2019


You will also be asked to engage in other readings which will be provided in pdf or electronic format via courseden.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

As a result of participating in this class, students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the attributes of consciousness and how consciousness has been defined
- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the various approaches toward studying, measuring and conceptualizing consciousness
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of competing models and theoretical positions regarding the nature and capacity of consciousness
- Apply their understanding of consciousness to subjective experiences
### Assignments

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<tr>
<th>Assignment name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Journal/blog</td>
<td>Prompts will be given to explore consciousness, its definition(s), nature and capacity in the form of a written journal or blog. Students will engage in a reflexive process regarding their own subjectivity, positioning, thought experiments, and responses to questions posed to consider the key issues relevant to understanding of consciousness. Submit physical responses each week of the class. Reflections will be due from August 21st and continue throughout the semester (except during the thanksgiving break).</td>
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| Class coordinations | Students will research and coordinate 2 class topics (generally we will explore 2 topics per class session but students do not necessarily need to coordinate consecutive topics) over the course of the semester. Class coordination should include at least a 30 minute presentation and time for class discussion. Students should include the following in their classes: 1. A clear summary of the overall topic, including definitions of any new terminology. 2. Articulation of the key researchers and theorists working in this area 3. Identification of the positioning of the author/authors 4. A clear summary of the main elements of the paper(s) and book chapters 5. Creativity in how the material is presented and rendered accessible 6. Coordination of question time (all students will bring questions) | 10% x 2  
Class coordinations will be graded following each coordination and feedback given (based on a rubric). Each class will be graded /15. | 30     |
What is consciousness?

Students will apply their understanding of consciousness studies to an experience of their choosing. By so doing, they will articulate their understanding of consciousness and provide their best critical answer to the question “what is consciousness”? Experiences might include hypnosis, dissociative identity disorder, out of body experiences, near death experiences, extra sensory perception, anomalous mind-matter interactions, savantism, drug induced and other altered states of consciousness (etc.). In your answer please specify the limitations of the competing models of consciousness as you make a case for the model(s) that you think work best, given the current state of knowledge. In the second part of your answer, please articulate the best way forward for consciousness studies and whether you think the problem is solvable.

Students will write a written paper in APA style and give a presentation (perhaps using powerpoint) and/or piece of creative work (art, dance, music) that will serve as a representation of the understanding of consciousness. Presentations should be 30 minutes in length.

| TOTAL | -- | -- | 100 |

Grading Information and Policy

Class coordinations will be graded as they are completed. Rubrics will be returned to students in a timely manner (usually by the next class period). Written prompt responses should be
submitted as a hard copy to your professor AND via the assignment folder on coursden which is enabled for Turnitin (see note about plagiarism and Turnitin below). Presentations may make use of powerpoint or other presentation software, and may also incorporate a creative work to illustrate the model of consciousness.

Grading structure and point scale

- 90% - 100%  A
- 80% - 89%  B
- 70% - 79%  C
- < 60%  F

Assignments are accepted late, subject to a penalty, unless there is a valid medical or other extenuating circumstance.

Grading Rubrics
Rubrics for assignments will be available on coursden.

Please see the Common Language for Course Syllabi for official information on UWG’s Academic Integrity Policy.

Plagiarism and Turnitin
Plagiarism is a serious issue in academia. This occurs if someone presents another person’s ideas (written or spoken) as their own. Turnitin is some electronic software (that is tied to the assignment folder in coursden) that allows you to check the originality in your written work and can help you to avoid plagiarism. It is highly unlikely that you will get an originality report of 0 – but the reports will be color coded, and a higher score (above 25% similarity) implies that your work is less original, you should aim for a low score (this means that your work is more original). If plagiarism is detected in your work, you will automatically fail the assignment, and may fail the course.

Communication Rules
If you have a question about a grade, please email me using the email within the coursden system. You can also organize an office hour appointment in person or via email or the telephone. Office hours appointments can be booked directly via google calendar and are 30 minutes in length.

Classroom Etiquette:
- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying in classroom discussions and peer exercises.
- Keep the dialogue collegial and professional.
- Please arrive at the classroom in a timely manner. Being late is distracting for your peers and your professor.
Expected Response Times

I will endeavor to grade class coordinations, written assignments and the final presentation in a timely manner. Class coordination grades will be given following each class that you coordinate (using a rubric). I will make every attempt to return written assignments within 7 days, but the amount of feedback required may extend that time. I will endeavor to reply to emails within a 24 hour period. If you email me over the weekend, I will endeavor to reply to you on the monday morning following that weekend.

Expectations of Students

Course Structure:

As this is a doctoral class, we will dig deeply into key topics within the subject area of consciousness studies. It is essential that all students read prior to attending class, as class will focus on topics discussed in the readings. All students will be expected to participate in all classes, even if you are not coordinating on a given day. Classes will be based on readings given for each topic. Students will lead class discussions throughout the semester. Those who are coordinating the class will prepare a 30 minute (powerpoint) summary of the key issues within the topic under discussion, and the main points presented within each of the readings (as described above). This should be done in a creative manner, and serve to enable greater understanding of the subject matter for yourself and for your peers. Those who are not leading on a given day will prepare for class by summarizing their own take home message from each of the readings within a class topic and engage with the readings by preparing 3 questions per class topic to share with the class, and to stimulate our class discussions.

Registrar’s office

Link to the site of the registrar’s office which contains important dates concerning add/drop and withdrawal [http://www.westga.edu/registrar/802.php](http://www.westga.edu/registrar/802.php)

What to do if you miss your final exam

If you miss your final exam and prior arrangements have not been made, you may receive a grade of F on that exam or paper and this may affect your final grade in the class. If you miss your exam due to an emergency, please contact the Psychology office at (678)839-6510 or go to Melson Room 123 as soon as possible to complete the application: “Missed Final Exam: Verification of Emergency”. This form will need to be approved by the chair for an incomplete grade which may allow you the time to make up your exam or complete your final assignments. This application will require documentation and authorization from you to verify your emergency.

Course and UWG Policies

Attendance Policy:

In order to distribute Title IV funding (federal student aid), student attendance verification is required. It is the student’s responsibility to sign the attendance sheet that will be circulated during each class.
Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:

If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the Office for Accessibility Services. UWG also provides Accessibility Statements for Technology that you may be required to use for this course.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the Common Language for Syllabus document.

Additional Support Information

Technical Support

Technical support for CourseDen, as well as the technological requirements, accessibility statements, privacy statements, tutorials, and other information can be found at Technology Requirements.

Center for Academic Success

The new Center for Academic Success (CAS) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. The CAS offers free appointment-based peer tutoring in core courses, as well as supplemental instruction (SI)—which is peer-facilitated collaborative learning—in a variety of disciplines. Students seeking help with study skills and strategies can attend workshops though the Academic Success Workshop series, or work individually with either a staff or peer Academic Coach. Beginning Fall 2014, the CAS will also offer “Back on Track,” a voluntary academic recovery program designed for students who want to improve their grades and academic standing. The Center for Academic Success is located in UCC 200, and can be reached at 678-839-6280. Our email address is cas@westga.edu.

Smarthinking

Smarthinking offers online tutoring services and resources (including the Writing Center) for UWG students/instructors in all courses. A link to Smarthinking is available in CourseDen under Resources in the navigation bar.

Student Services

Here is a great resource of Student Services for all students at UWG, whether or not they are taking online courses. This link provides students with most of the information they need. If a student is experiencing distress and needs some help, check out UWG Cares.

Full URL Support for Courses

- CourseDen D2L Home Page
  https://westga.view.usg.edu/
- CourseDen Help (8 AM – 5 PM)
  https://uwgonline.westga.edu/uwg-online-student-help.php
  Email: online@westga.edu
24/7/365 D2L Help Center
https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/

University Bookstore
http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/

Common Language for Course Syllabi
https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php

UWG Cares
http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/

Accessibility Services
https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php

Student Services
http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php

Center for Academic Success
http://www.westga.edu/cas/

Distance Learning Library Services
https://www.westga.edu/library/resource-sharing.php

Ingram Library Services
http://www.westga.edu/library/

Proctored Exams
http://uwgonline.westga.edu/exams.php#student

UWG Accessibility Statements for Technology
https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Ri1XgaXiGx28ooO-zRvYPraV3Aq3F5ZNJYbVDGVnEA/edit?ts=57b4c82d#heading=h.yrqefffvtst1f

*This syllabus is subject to minor alterations in content and order.