



Short Syllabus



Course Title

Consciousness and the Electronic Mind

Lecturer

Dr. Noa Gedi

Contact details

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Semester

Fall, Thursday, 12:00-14:00

Short Description

Consciousness has always been considered the most significant feature of what defines us as human beings and distinguishes us most notably from other life forms. At the same time, however, consciousness remains a mystery no less great than that of the universe at large. Therefore, it has been a major concern of scientists and theoreticians in various fields of knowledge, particularly in philosophy, but also in psychology and cognitive science, and more recently in AI (artificial intelligence) research. The course will grapple with questions concerning the nature of consciousness in metaphysics and philosophy of mind and examine the challenges to human cognitive autonomy and to the subjective character of experience against advances in neuroscience and the possibility of engineering artificial consciousness.

Final grade components

Midterm:

In-class round of debates about controversies based on written notes that will be submitted on the date of the debate. 20%

Final requirement:

Take-home exam (48 hours) 70%. Submission dates are set by the university and the Liberal Arts program and extension requests can only be granted by the program's academic committee.

Participation:

Active participation 10%

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unauthorized absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.*

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously



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received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.*

Final assignment

Exam dates and submission deadlines are published on the Liberal Arts website. Courses with a final exam also have a second make-up exam. Students requiring an extension for a final paper must submit an Academic Committee Request Form to the Liberal Arts office in advance of the deadline. Late papers will be subject to a point deduction.*

Additional requirements

* See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details