

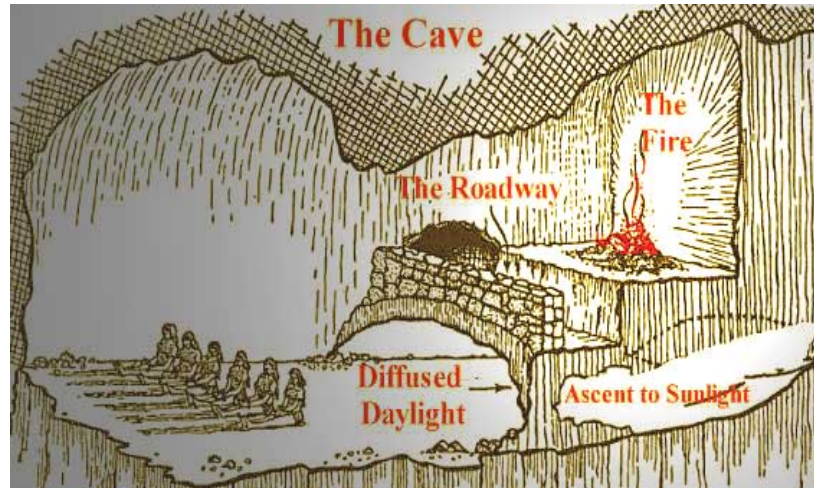
**Rutgers University Center for Cognitive  
Science**

**Advanced Topics II: Neurophilosophy  
(01:185:412)**

**Summer 2021**

**Time: 10:00 am to 12:55 pm, MTWR (scheduled)**

**Location: Remote**



**Course Instructor:** Dr. Christian Reich

Office: N/A

Email: [cr824@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:cr824@scarletmail.rutgers.edu)

Office Hours: By Appointment

**Required Materials**

Churchland, P.S., (2002). Brain-Wise, Studies in Neurophilosophy. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Churchland, P.S., (2013). Touching a Nerve: Our Brains, Our Selves. New York, NY : W.W. Norton.

Ramachandran, V.S., (20011). The Tell-Tale Brain. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company

***Recommended Materials***

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed.).

Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. – NOTE: APA style will be enforced in all writing.

## Course Description

Psychology, born from the disciplines of Philosophy and Physiology, has long sought to provide insight into the nature of the mind. Some of the classic questions include: What is the relationship between the mind and the body? Is the mind the same thing as the brain or is it something else? How can mere thoughts cause things to happen in a physical universe? Is it merely a delusion on our part to believe that our thoughts matter in the grand scheme of the universe?

Recent progress in Neuroscience is profoundly altering our conception of how we think, feel, decide, love and even reproduce. Therefore, *Neurophilosophy* is a recent sub-discipline arising from the intersections of neuroscience, philosophy and psychology.

## Course Objectives

The core objective of this course is to critically examine the three following hypotheses: 1) Mental activity is in fact brain activity. It can be investigated successfully through scientific methods. 2) Neuroscience and Cognitive Psychology are mutually dependent and are co-evolving, and 3) To understand the nature of the mind, it is necessary to understand the brain on its many levels of organization. These hypotheses will be explored and critically evaluated through student-led class discussions.

## Course Requirements

**EXAMS:** To evaluate understanding of the material, 2 exams (a mid-term and a final exam) will be administered. Each exam will be take-home and consist of 8-10 short and long essay questions.

**Missed Exams:** If you miss an exam without a PRIOR approved excuse, your grade for the exam will be an F. I consider a validated professional absence as a legitimate excuse. No makeup exams will be given. If under an extraneous circumstance you fail to inform me of your absence prior to the exam, I will only take into consideration an absence with an appropriate professional written excuse.

**Written Summaries and Reflections:** This hybrid online course is primarily a reading and writing format. Supplemental videos will be posted to aid in comprehension of material. Each full Chapter/Video summary will be 2-3 pages double spaced and submitted to class email address. These summaries will comprise a large percentage of your final grade. Summaries/Reflections will be due each Monday with the *final set due on Jun 18*.

Class Email: cr824@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

**Participation in Class Discussions:** This is mostly an asynchronous course: however, we will have at least 1-2/week synchronous virtual discussions. Also, we will have online group discussions through Canvas. Participation in either is partially voluntary in that you MUST consistently participate in at least one. Therefore, it is expected that you have done the required reading and reflection in preparation for each class discussion.

### **Grading Breakdown**

EXAMS		<b>50 %</b>
Mid-Term	25%	
Final Exam	25%	
SUMMARIES:		<b>30%</b>
DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION		<b>15%</b>
NEUROPRIMER ASSIGNMENT		<b>5%</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Grades**

Student grades (including final grades) are determined by the following system. **Please note that I do not curve in grading.**

A	95-100
A-	90-94.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D+	66-79.9
D	58- 65.9
F	< 57.9

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### Tentative Schedule

\*Please note that this schedule is merely a guide and is subject to change at anytime during the semester. You will be immediately notified of any such change. **BW** = *Brain Wise*, **TTB** = *Tell Tale Brain*, **TN** = *Touching a Nerve*

6/01	Class Introduction	Assign: Neuroscience Primer
6/02	Introduction – BW- Chap 1	
6/03	Chap 2 – BW	TN: Chap 1 and Chap 2
6/07	Chap 3- BW, pgs. 59-80- 1 <sup>st</sup> paragraph <i>TTB- Chapter 1</i>	Neuroscience Primer Due
6/08	Chap 3- BW, pgs. 80- 2nd paragraph- 103 <i>TTB- Chapter 2</i>	TN: Chap 3 and Chap 4
6/09	Chap 3-BW, pgs 103-125, <i>TTB- Chap 3</i>	
6/10	Chap 4 – BW, pgs 127-164	
6/14	Chap 4 – BW, pgs. 164-198	TN: Chap 5 and Chap 6
6/15	<i>TTB- Chapters 5 and 6</i>	
6/16	Chap 5- BW, <i>TTB- Chapter 7 or 8</i>  <b>Mid-Term</b>	
6/17	Chap 6- BW - Introduction to Epistemology - pgs. 241-255	TN: Chap 7
6/21	Chap 6- BW- Finish, Chap 7- BW- pgs. 273-293	TN: 8
6/22	Chap 7- BW- pgs. 293-317, Chap 8 –BW pgs. 321-345	
6/23	Chap 8- BW- Finish, <i>TTB- Chap 9</i> Chap 9- BW	
6/25	<b>Final Exam</b>	TN: Chap 9