

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Department of Cognitive Science

Course Title: Consciousness

Course Number: CGS 652

Credits: 3-0-0-0 [9]

Prerequisite: CGS601 or CGS696 or CGS401.

Who can take the course: 2nd Level UG, Masters, and PhD students

Proposer: Prof. Narayanan Srinivasan

Other Interested Faculty: Devpriya Kumar

Objectives: The student is expected to understand and distinguish between philosophical approaches (focusing mostly on contemporary approaches) to consciousness. The students should be able to understand the phenomena to be explained and understand the methodological issues in studying consciousness. Knowledge of experiments on various aspects of consciousness including the relationship between consciousness and other mental processes as well as neural mechanisms that underlie consciousness. The course will focus on psychophysical, neural and computational studies on consciousness. The course will be a seminar course and will involve discussing journal articles in some detail.

Topic	Material	Lecture hours
1	Problems of consciousness, Types of consciousness	3
2	Introduction to different philosophical positions on consciousness, measurement of consciousness (content and states), phenomenology	6
3	Theories of Consciousness: Global workspace, Higher order thought theory, predictive processing, information integration theory, recurrent processing theory	6
4	Consciousness and cognition: Attention, meta-cognition, conscious vs unconscious perception, multi-stability, implicit vs explicit learning/memory, mind wandering, flow	9
5	Sensorimotor accounts of consciousness (embodiment and enaction), Emotions	6
6	Time consciousness, Self, Volition	6
7	Altered states of consciousness, Sleep and dreaming, meditation, psychedelic drugs	6
8	Consciousness in Indian philosophy	3

Total		42
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Readings

Books

- Tye, M. 1995. *Ten Problems of Consciousness: A Representational Theory of the Phenomenal Mind*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Dennett, D. C. 1991. *Consciousness Explained*. Boston: Little Brown.
- Baars, B. J., Banks, W. P., & Newman, J. B. (2003). *Essential Sources in the Scientific Study of Consciousness*. MIT Press. **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**
- Gennaro, R. (2018). *The Routledge Handbook of Consciousness*. Routledge, NY.
- Zelazo, P. D., Moscovitch, M., & Thompson, E. (2007). *Cambridge Handbook of Consciousness*. Cambridge, UK.
- Velmans, M. & Schneider, S. (2017). *Blackwell Companion to Consciousness*.
- Laureys, S., & Tononi. (2015). *The Neurology of Consciousness: Cognitive neuroscience and Neuropathology*. Elsevier.

Dated: _____

Proposer: _____

Dated: _____

PPGC Convenor: _____

This course is approved/not approved

Chairperson, SPGC

Dated :