Seminar in Philosophy of Mind

PHIL 596K
Fall 2011
S SCI 332
Thursday 3:30-5:50

Instructor: Shaun Nichols
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Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4, and by appointment
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Readings: All readings will be available on D2L. https://d2l.arizona.edu/

Course Description:
In this seminar, we will explore recent work on the self, with attention to related work in cognitive science.

Course requirements and grading:
• 75%: Term paper (5-6000 words), due December 14th
• 25%: Blog entries for each class period. For each class, you are required to post a response to some aspect of the readings. These responses will be the basis for our discussions in the seminar meeting, so they should aspire to raise points for discussion. Aim for roughly 400 words. The responses should be posted by 5pm on Wednesday preceding class. Everyone should read the responses prior to class.
The site is here: http://phil596k.class.arizona.edu/
Log in by clicking the "login" text link in the left margin area. It authenticates through WebAuth.

University boilerplate:
You need a good excuse, in advance, to miss an exam or to hand in a paper late. All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored.

I expect acceptable classroom behavior at all times. Disruptive or threatening behavior may result in disciplinary procedures leading to severe penalties. See the UA Policy on Threatening Behavior by Students, and documents referenced therein.

Students with Disabilities
Students with physical, psychological, or learning disabilities who anticipate needing accommodations in this course are encouraged to register with the S.A.L.T. Center or the Disability Resource Center. Students with special needs who are registered with the S.A.L.T. Center or the Disability Resource Center are reminded that they must submit appropriate documentation as soon as possible if they are requesting special accommodations.
Tentative and incomplete schedule of readings

Personal identity and pluralism:
Week 1.

Essential background:

Memory and the self:
Week 2:
Q-memory
Bernecker, S. 2010: Memory: A Philosophical Study (OUP), Chapter 2, “Personal Identity and Memory”

The sense of identity

Week 3:
Episodic memory and development
(This article will also be important to the section on narrative theories of the self. For the purposes of the discussion on this day, though, the focus is on episodic/autobiographical memory. So you can just read the sections on Defining Autobiographical Memory [560-563] and Autobiographical Memory and the Subjective Self [569-573]).

Memory Reconsolidation

False experience effect

Recommended:

Narrative theories of the self
Week 4.
Velleman, D. 2006. “The Self as Narrator” in *Self to Self*

Recommended:
Strawson, G. 2008. “Against Narrativity” from *Real Materialism*

**Self control**

Week 5.

Recommended:

Self concept and essentialism

Week 6:

Recommended:

Phenomenology of self

Week 7. Cognitive science: Comparator model
Carruthers, G. (2010) “The case for the comparator model as an explanation of the sense of agency and its breakdowns” *Consciousness and Cognition*

Recommended:

Week 8. Philosophical phenomenology
Nida-Rumelin, M. 2007. Doings and Subject Causation. *Erkenntnis*
**Automaticity and the self**  
Week 9.  
Doris, J. forthcoming. *Talking to Our Selves*, chapters on “Skepticism” and “Agency”

**Introspection**  
Week 10.  