Syllabus

MBC 600: Research Group Seminar in Mind, Brain, and Culture
Fall, 2015

Location: Center for Mind, Brain, and Culture, PAIS 464

Instructor Names and Contact Info:

Name: Robert N. McCauley        Lynne C. Nygaard
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to provide a sense of community among certificate participants, a source of intellectual input and support, and an opportunity for additional insight into multidisciplinary approaches to the study of mind, brain, and culture.

All participants will be students participating in the Certificate Program in Mind, Brain, and Culture who have completed the Core Course (MBC 501) requirement.

Course Structure and Goals

The course content will be variable and determined collaboratively by the course participants each semester. We will meet five times over the course of the semester (including an initial organizational meeting). The goals are to provide multidisciplinary perspectives on topics of particular interest to those students enrolled and to address timely new research and topics of interest. Students will be encouraged to nominate topics, issues, readings, and potential guest speakers. The instructor will also propose topics that have received recent research attention or that particularly epitomize a multidisciplinary approach.

Evaluation

Students may enroll in the course on an S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) basis only. Student performance will be evaluated based on attendance, participation, and taking responsibility for leading/facilitating discussion at least once during the two semesters they are required to enroll.

Readings

Participants should provide the CMBC Administrative Assistant, Tamara Beck, with copies of the readings (preferably, files of the texts but hard copy, if files are unavailable) for the sessions for which they have principal responsibility. These materials should be in to Ms. Beck at least three weeks before the session is to occur (though, ideally, earlier even than that). Ms. Beck will scan hard copies and disseminate the texts to all participants via email as promptly as her schedule allows.
**Sustenance**

In the final 45 minutes or so of each meeting, we will continue conversation over dinner, which will be provided by the CMBC. Expect to be contacted by Ms. Beck via email some days before each session. She will be providing the restaurant’s take-out menu from which you should order what you want in advance. The final session will include a dinner at Robert McCauley’s home.

**Schedule:**

**SESSION 1:**  
**CMBC**  
**Date and Time:** Tuesday, September 1 @ 4:00 p.m.  
**Topics:** ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – All participants  
CAPSTONE PRESENTATION: Natalie Merrill  
"The Intergenerational Self: An Exploration in Theory and Empirical Research"  
**Discussion Facilitator:** Natalie Merrill  
**Restaurant:** Bhojanic

**SESSION 2:**  
**CMBC**  
**Date and Time:** Tuesday, September 29 @ 4:15pm  
**Topic:** "You Don’t Say?: Non-linguistic Communication in Humans" / “Great Ape Personality!”  
**Discussion Facilitator:** Eva Lewandowski / Christina Rogers  
**Readings:**  
SESSION 3: CMBC
Date and Time: Tuesday, October 27 @ 4:15pm

Topic: “Axial Age Religions”

Discussion Facilitator: Marianne Florian

Readings:


Restaurant: Mediterranean Grill

SESSION 4: McCauley Home
Date and Time: Wednesday, December 9 @ 5:00pm

Topic: "Addiction as Case Study for the Role of Cognitive Science in Interdisciplinary Research"

Discussion Facilitator: Katie Givens Kime

Readings:


Restaurant: NONE; dinner to be provided by McCauleys.