

## 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 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:* Arnal, L., Flinker, A., Kleinschmidt, A., Giraud, A., & Poeppel, D. (2015). Human Screams Occupy a Privileged Niche in the Communication Soundscape. *Current Biology*, 25(15), 2051-2056.  
doi:10.1016/j.cub.2015.06.043

Grandjean, D., Bänziger, T., & Scherer, K. R. (2006). Intonation as an interface between language and affect. *Understanding Emotions Progress in Brain Research*, 235-247.  
doi:10.1016/s0079-6123(06)56012-1

Latzman, R. D., Hopkins, W. D., Keebaugh, A. C., & Young, L. J. (2014). Personality in Chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes): Exploring the Hierarchical Structure and Associations with the Vasopressin V1A Receptor Gene. *PLoS ONE*, 9(4).  
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0095741

Weiss, A., Staes, N., Pereboom, J. J., Inoue-Murayama, M., Stevens, J. M., & Eens, M. (2015). Personality in Bonobos. *Psychological Science*. doi:10.1177/0956797615589933

*Restaurant:* Top Spice

**SESSION 3:** **CMBC**  
**Date and Time:** **Tuesday, October 27 @ 4:15pm**

*Topic:* "Axial Age Religions"

*Discussion Facilitator:* Marianne Florian

*Readings:* The Axial Age Breakthroughs -- Their Characteristics and Origins. [Introduction]. (1986). In S. N. Eisenstadt (Author), *The Origins and diversity of axial age civilizations* (pp. 1-25). Albany: State University of New York Press.

Bellah, R. N. (2011). The Axial Age I: Introduction and Ancient Israel. In *Religion in human evolution: From the Paleolithic to the Axial Age* (pp. 265-282). Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

Baumard, N., & Boyer, P. (2013). Explaining moral religions. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 17(6), 272-280. doi:10.1016/j.tics.2013.04.003

Baumard, N., Hyafil, A., Morris, I., & Boyer, P. (2015). Increased Affluence Explains the Emergence of Ascetic Wisdoms and Moralizing Religions. *Current Biology*, 25(1), 10-15. doi:10.1016/j.cub.2014.10.063

*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:* Flanagan, O. (2011). What is it like to be an addict? In J. S. Poland & G. Graham (Eds.), *Addiction and responsibility* (pp. 269–272). Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.

Kime, K. (2015). New neuro models for the interdisciplinary pursuit of understanding addiction. *The Neuroethics Blog*. Retrieved on November 19, 2015, from <http://www.theneuroethicsblog.com/2015/06/new-neuro-models-for-interdisciplinary.html>

Nadeau, L. (2014). All for One, One for All: Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Treatment of Addictions. *Canadian Journal of Addiction Medicine*, 5(3), 23–27.

*Restaurant:*

NONE; dinner to be provided by McCauleys.