

## *Syllabus*

### **MBC 600: RESEARCH GROUP SEMINAR IN MIND, BRAIN, AND CULTURE**

Fall, 2014

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

#### Instructor Names and Contact Info:

|               |  |  |
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| Name:         | Robert N. McCauley                                       | Lynne C. Nygaard   |
| Office:       | PAIS 591   | PAIS 379   |
| Email:        | <a href="mailto:philrnm@emory.edu">philrnm@emory.edu</a> | <a href="mailto:lnygaar@emory.edu">lnygaar@emory.edu</a> |
| Phone:        | 404-727-0103   | 404-727-0766   |
| Office Hours: | Wednesdays 1:30 – 3:30 pm<br>and <i>by appointment</i>   | Tuesdays 10:00 am-12:30 pm<br>and <i>by appointment</i>  |

#### **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 the McCauleys' home.

### Schedule:

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Tuesday, September 2 @ 4:00 p.m.**

**SESSION 1: CMBC**  
**Date and Time: Tuesday, September 30 @ 4:30 p.m.**  
**Dinner provided from: Bhojanic**

*Topic:* Social and Cognitive Approaches to Religion  
*Discussion Facilitator:* Robert McCauley

#### *Readings:*

Gray, K., & Wegner, D.M. (2010). Blaming God for our pain: Human suffering and the divine mind. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 14(1), 7-16.

Whitehouse, H., & Lanman, J. (2014). The ties that bind us: Ritual, fusion, and identification. *Current Anthropology*, 55(6) – *in press*.

**SESSION 2: CMBC**  
**Date and Time: Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 p.m.**  
**Dinner provided from: Mediterranean Grill**

*Topic:* TBA  
*Discussion Facilitator:* Natalie Merrill

*Readings:* TBA

**SESSION 3: CMBC**  
**Date and Time: Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 p.m.**  
**Dinner provided from: Taqueria del Sol**

*Topic:* TBA  
*Discussion Facilitator:* Melanie Pincus

*Readings:* TBA

**SESSION 4: MCCAULEY'S HOUSE**  
**Date and Time: Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 p.m.**

**Dinner provided by: Dr. and Mrs. McCauley**

*Topic:* TBA

*Discussion Facilitator:* Jacob Billings

*Readings:* TBA