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| Code of course: **BMI-LOTD17-106E.03, BMA-LOTD17-106.03, BMA-LOTD-516.01, BBN-FIL18-324.02, BMA-FILD-324.15, BMI-LOTD-516E.01** |
| Title of course: **Philosophy of Mind and Contemporary Neuroscience** |
| Lecturer: **Luis F. Murillo** |
| **General aim of the course:**  This course is a one semester overview and introduction to psychology, with a strong emphasis on Historical Problems, Philosophical underpinnings of the Discipline, Psychoanalysis, Biological Psychology, Sensory Physiology of Vision, and Pathological Psychology  **Content of the course:**  **Course Objectives**  - develop familiarity with technical language  - provide students with foundational knowledge in the basic areas, and major currents of enquiry in psychological research  - gain familiarity with the basic structure of the nervous system  - define questions of consciousness and embodiment, and the variety of methods for collecting research and analyzing data throughout the history of the discipline.  - address the question of the unconscious  - illustrate the critical evaluation of research methodologies  - gain competency in comprehending scholarly literature  **Procedures**  Information will be presented in the form of lectures with interactive student participation. We will view and comment videos about scientific research.  **Classroom format:** Interactive lecture, discussion of readings and videos  **Active class participation is extremely important**.  **Required Text**  R.L. Atkinson, et. al. Hilgard’s Introduction to Psychology  A secondary text is available electronically from the instructor upon request  **Semester Schedule**   1. The study of psychology. Fields, approaches, historical background, methodological problems 2. Psychoanalysis and the Freudian theories of Personality and Socialisation 3. Neurobiological and physiological basis of psychology / Neuroplasticity 4. Biological basis of pleasure and reward mechanisms / addiction 5. The nervous system and its functions. Sensory physiology. Presentation of Dr. Murillo’s own research on colour vision 6. Sensory Process: Nature vs. Nurture debate. Perception and attention   Mid-term test   1. Psychopathology 2. Social psychology, mental attribution, Classical conditioning   **Grading criteria, specific requirements: Assignments and grading**  **- Attendance is important.**  **Grades drop precipitously after 3 unexcused absences.**  - There will be regular quizzes.  **Calculating grades**  Class participation – 30%  Ten best out of 12 quizzes - 20 %  Final test – 50 %  **Required reading:**  **Week 1**  **What am I doing here?**  Administrative Introduction –  Course logistics: Textbook / Grading and Absence policy  Why study psychology and why did you chose Psychology  Are robots with rat brains possible?  What does it feel to be like one?  **Week 2**  **Am I a brain in a vat? How do I know you guys aren’t zombies?**  Thematic Introduction –Consciousness and Behaviour the Object of Psychology.  The problem of consciousness. A robot with a rat brain. Is a thermostat conscious?  How do we study consciousness?  Embodiment (rubber hand), Neuroplasticity  Subfields. Experimental approach  **Week 3**  **What did the mind think about itself before I was born?**  How the brain creates your reality – from attributions to embodiment, to voices in your head. History of Psychology from Hippocrates to Penfield  Wundt (Structuralism), measuring the speed of thought  James (Functionalism and evolutionary theory)  **Week 4**  **Am I really who I think I am?**  Freud and defense mechanisms  **Week 5**  **How do I know what I know is not bogus?**  Research Methods: Experiments, Naturalistics Observations, ceteris paribus  Research Techniques  electrophysiology, tracers, scanners, optogenetic  Broca, Penfield (localisationism)  **Week 6**  **What part of me makes me me?**  **Am I really seeing what I think I am seeing?**  Anatomy of CNS and PNS  Split Brain  Perception vs Sensation  Visual system  Gestalt Psychology  **Week 7**  **Why do I feel the way I do?**  **Introduce assignment essay on sensation vs perception**  The biology of emotions  The biology of pleasure and addiction  Hippocampus, Medial Forebrain Bundle (MFB)  Papez Circuit  **Week 8**  **Am I mentally ill?**  Intro to Psychopathology  Main types of Mental Illness  **Week 9**  **What are those voices in my head?**  Schizophrenia  Dopamine Theory  **Week 10**  **Does all my life depend on a single protein?**  Movie Awakenings  **Week 11**  **Can I express my thoughts clearly?**  Student presentations: Mental Illness  **Week 12**  **Am I just a machine?**  Learning classical conditioning  **Week 13**  **Is my brain pro-social?**  Mental Attribution, Theory of Mind, Conformity  FINAL EXAM |