

CONSCIOUSNESS AND THE ELECTRONIC MIND

Dr. Noa Gedi

Fall Semester

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Office Hours: Thursdays & Wednesdays by appointment

Short description: Consciousness has always been considered the most significant feature of what defines us as human beings, and distinguishes us most notably from other life forms. At the same time, however, consciousness remains a mystery no less great than that of the universe at large. This is why it has been a major concern of scientists and theoreticians in various fields of knowledge, particularly in philosophy, but also in psychology and cognitive science, and more recently in AI (artificial intelligence) research. The course will grapple with questions concerning the nature of consciousness in metaphysics and philosophy of mind, and examine the challenges to human cognitive autonomy and to the subjective character of experience against advances in neuroscience and the possibility of engineering artificial consciousness.

Assessment*:

Midterm:

In-class presentation (**19%**) on any relevant (and confirmed) topic of your choice, according to assigned instructions, will be posted on Moodle toward the second half of the semester.

Final requirement:

Take-home exam (**71%**) will be assigned for 48 hours and posted on the Moodle website exactly at the designated day and hour set by the university and the Liberal Arts program and. Submission dates for the original and the second-chance date must be respected.

Participation:

Active participation in class **10%**.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an

* Please note that if distance learning is required, the assessment procedure, modes of assessment and weightings may be changed.

exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements:

Students are requested to keep phones turned-off while in class.