

PHIL 877 Topics in Philosophy of Mind: Memory

Spring 2014

Wescoe 3097

M 2:30–4:20

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Office Hours:

Mondays 11:00–12:30

Wednesdays 2:00–3:30

and by appointment

TEXTS:

There is no textbook for this course. All readings will be available on Blackboard.

Course Description and Objectives:

Memory is an important cognitive capacity, and as such, many prominent philosophers have offered theories of memory and have recruited memory to address puzzles that arise in discussing other philosophical questions. Nonetheless, memory has rarely been a topic of sustained investigation in the way that other capacities, such as perception and imagination, have been. The aim of this course is to give you a broad overview of philosophy, using memory as the common thread.

We will spend the first half of our course exploring various philosophical theories of memory. Our approach will be broadly historical: we'll start with Aristotle, then transition to representational and realist views in the early modern period, and finish with contemporary analytic theories of memory. For the second half, we will switch gears and explore ways in which memory informs (and complicates) philosophical questions about the nature of knowledge, personal identity, agency, and the self. The specific content for the second half of the course has yet to be determined—topics will be determined (in part) by the topics you wish to pursue for your class presentations and research papers.

GRADING

Discussion Questions/Participation: 25%

Short Presentation: 10%

Class Presentation: 30%

Final Paper: 35%

Grading details and criteria are explained below.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/PARTICIPATION (25%)

This is a graduate-level course. I take it as a given that you will not only come to class, but that you will do the reading for each class and come prepared to be an active participant. To ensure the quality of our discussions, you are required to come to each class meeting with 2-3 discussion questions about the reading(s) assigned for that day. They may, on occasion, be clarificatory, but for the most part these should be questions that reflect some independent thought about the issues raised by the reading. Your questions should be typed and should be turned in as a hard copy to me at the end of each meeting.

SHORT PRESENTATION (10%)

Each of you will be required to give a short presentation during Weeks 6 and 7 on one of the assigned articles. Your presentation should be approximately 15 minutes long and should involve both a summary and critique of that reading.

CLASS PRESENTATION (30%)

The second half of the course will be devoted to the role of memory in various philosophical topics. Each of you will be in charge of directing one class meeting. This involves selecting the date, topic and readings for a class session (subject to instructor approval) and leading class discussion on the day in question. Ideally, the topic of your presentation will feed directly into your term paper. Selection of topics will begin during Week 4.

FINAL PAPER (35%)

The major assignment of this course is a research paper on the (memory-related) topic of your choosing. Your paper should be an argumentative essay: An argumentative essay requires defending a thesis and producing arguments both for and against that thesis. Papers should be seminar length: 4000-6500 words in length (approximately 15-25 pages, if 12 pt. double spaced). You will be required to submit a draft to me by **Wednesday May 7th at 5PM**. I will return these drafts to you by Friday, May 9th. Your final paper is due at the end of finals week: **Friday, May 16th at 5PM**.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 (1/27): Aristotle on Memory

Aristotle, selections from *On Memory and Recollection*

Julia Annas (1986). Aristotle on Memory and the Self." *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy*, 4, 99-117.

Richard Sorabji (2006). Aristotle on Memory, 2nd edition. Chapters 1-3 (pgs. 1-46).

Helen S. Lang (1980). On Memory: Aristotle's Corrections of Plato. *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 18, 379-393.

Week 2 (2/03): John Locke vs. Thomas Reid (Representationalism vs. Realism)

John Locke (1690). *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Ch. 10: Of Retention.

Thomas Reid (1785). *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*. Essay III: Memory. A.D. Woozley ed., Macmillan Press.

David Owens (1966). A Lockean Theory of Memory Experience, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 56, 319-332.

Rebecca Copenhaver (2006). Thomas Reid's Theory of Memory, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, 23, 171-189.

Andy Hamilton (2003). Scottish Commonsense About Memory: A Defence of Thomas Reid's Direct Knowledge Account, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 81, 229-245.

Week 3 (2/10): Causal Theory of Memory

C. B. Martin and Max Deutscher (1966). Remembering. *Philosophical Review*, 75, 161-196.

Deborah Rosen (1975). An argument for the logical notion of a memory trace. *Philosophy of Science*, 42, 1-10.

Dorothea Debus (2010). Accounting for Epistemic Relevance: A new problem for the causal theory of memory. *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 47, 17-29.

Sven Bernecker (2010). *Memory: A Philosophical Study*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, Ch. 4 and Ch. 5

Week 4 (2/17): NO CLASS.

1. Select article for short presentation
2. Preliminary decisions about long presentation/research topic

Week 5 (CLASS MEETS ON 2/25): meeting w/ Sven Bernecker. Reading TBA.**Week 6 (3/03): Memory Without Traces**

Norman Malcolm (1970). Memory and Representation, *Noûs*, 4, 59-71.

M.R. Bennett and P.M.S. Hacker (2003). *Philosophical Foundations of Neuroscience*, Wiley-Blackwell. Ch. 5: The Cognitive Powers.

E.M. Zemach (1983). Memory: What it is and What it Cannot Possibly Be, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 44, 31-44.

John Heil (1977). Traces of Things Past, *Philosophy of Science*, 45, 60-72.

Week 7: Constructive Memory

Felipe de Brigard (2013). Is Memory for Remembering? *Synthese*

Stanley Klein (2013). The temporal orientation of memory: It's time for a change of direction, *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*, 2, 222-234.

Kourken Michaelian (2011). Generative Memory, *Philosophical Psychology*, 24, 323-342.

Ulric Neisser (1967). *Cognitive Psychology*, Ch. 11: A Cognitive Approach to Memory and Thought.

SPRING BREAK: 3/17-3/21

Suggested Topics and Readings:

(1) Memory and Personal Identity

John Locke (1690). *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Ch. 27: Of Identity and Diversity.

Sydney Shoemaker (1970). Persons and Their Pasts, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 7, 269-285.

Arthur W. Collins (1997). Personal Identity and the Coherence of Q-Memory. *Philosophical Quarterly* 47 (186):73-80.

Stanley Klein & Shaun Nichols (2012). Memory and the sense of personal identity, *Mind*, 121.

Marc Slors (2001). Personal Identity, Memory, and Circularity: An Alternative for Q-Memory, *The Journal of Philosophy*, 98, 186-214.

Marya Schechtman (1994). The Truth About Memory, *Philosophical Psychology*, 7, 3-18.

Johan E. Gustafsson (2010). Did Locke Defend the Memory Continuity Criterion of Personal Identity? *Locke Studies* 10:113–129.

Shelley Weinberg (2011). Locke on Personal Identity. *Philosophy Compass* 6 (6):398-407.

(2) Memory and the Extended Mind

Andy Clark and David Chalmers (1998). *The Extended Mind*, *Analysis*, 58, 7-19.

Andy Clark (2004). Intrinsic content, active memory, and the extended mind, *Analysis*, 65, 1-11.

Fred Adams & Kenneth Aizawa (2001). The bounds of cognition. *Philosophical Psychology*, 14, 43-64.

Robert Rupert (2005). Challenges to the Hypothesis of Extended Cognition. *Journal of Philosophy*, 101, 389-428.

Kourken Michaelian (2012). Is External Memory Memory?

Biological Memory and Extended Mind. *Consciousness and Cognition* 21 (3):1154-1165.

John Sutton (2010). Exograms and Interdisciplinarity: History, the Extended Mind, and the Civilizing Process. In Richard Menary (ed.), *The Extended Mind*. MIT Press.

(3) Memory and Knowledge

Robert Audi (1995). Memorial justification, *Philosophical Topics*, 23, 31-45.

Michael Huemer (1999). The problem of memory knowledge. *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*,

80, 346-357.

Jennifer Lackey (2005). Memory as a Generative Epistemic Source, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 70, 636–65.

Thomas Senor (2007). Preserving Preservationism: A Reply to Lackey, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 74, 199-208.

Jennifer Lackey (2007). Why Memory Really is an Epistemically Generative Source: A Reply to Senor, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 74, 209-219.

Robert Schroer (2008). Memory Foundationalism and the Problem of Unforgotten Carelessness, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 89, 74-85.

Kourken Michaelian (2013). The information effect: constructive memory, testimony, and epistemic luck. *Synthese*, 190, 2429-2456.

Andrew Naylor (1982). Defeasibility and Memory Knowledge. *Mind* 91 (July):432-437

Karen Shanton (2011). Memory, Knowledge and Epistemic Competence. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* 2 (1):89-104.

(4) Memory and Levels of Explanation

Carl Craver (2006). Interlevel experiments and multilevel mechanisms in the neuroscience of memory. *Philosophy of Science*, 69, S83–97.

Jacqueline Sullivan (2007). Memory consolidation, multiple realizations, and modest reductions. *Philosophy of Science*, 75, 501–513.

Kenneth Aizawa (2007). The Biochemistry of Memory Consolidation: A Model System for the Philosophy of Mind. *Synthese* 155 (1):65-98.

John Bickle (2008). Reducing mind to molecular pathways: explicating the reductionism implicit in current cellular and molecular neuroscience, *Synthese*, 151, 411-434.

William P. Bechtel (2001). The Compatibility of Complex Systems and Reduction: A Case Analysis of Memory Research. *Minds And Machines* 11 (4):483-502.

(5) Puzzles About Amnesia

Carl Craver (2012). A Preliminary Case for Amnesic Selves. *Social Cognition*, Vol. 30, No. 4, pp. 449-473.

Christoph Hoerl (1999). Memory, Amnesia, and the Past, *Mind and Language*, 14, 227-251.

Teresa McCormack (1999). Temporal Concepts and Episodic Memory: A Response To Hoerl, *Mind and Language*, 14, 252-262.

Galen Strawson (2007) Episodic Ethics. *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement*, 82, 85-116.

Galen Strawson (2007). Why I have No Future, *The Philosopher's Magazine*, 38, 21-26.

(6) Memory and the Self

Tyler Burge (2004). Memory and Persons, *Philosophical Review*, 112, 289-337

Daniel Giberan (2009). Who They Are and What de Se: Burge on Quasi-Memory. *Philosophical Studies* 144 (2):297 - 311.

Andy Hamilton (2007). Memory and self-consciousness: Immunity to error through misidentification. *Synthese*, 171, 409–417.

Jordi Fernandez (2008). Memory, Past and Self. *Synthese* 160 (1):103-121.

Penelope Rowlett (2009). Consciousness and Memory. *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 16 (5):68-78.

John Sutton (2010). Observer Perspective and Acentred Memory: Some Puzzles About Point of View in Personal Memory. *Philosophical Studies* 148 (1):27 - 37.

(7) Memory and Morality

McKenna, M. (2009). Responsibility and control. *Journal of Philosophy*, 98, 93-100.

Wilma Koutstaal (1995). Situating Ethics and Memory, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 32, 253-262.

Julia Driver (2009). Memory, desire, and value in *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. In C. Grau (ed.) *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (Philosophers on Film)*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Avishai Margalit (2002). *The Ethics of Memory*: Ch. 3 and Ch. 4.

Susan Campbell (2006). Our faithfulness to the past: Reconstructing memory value. *Philosophical Psychology*, 19, 361-380.

(8) Memory and Mental Content

Anthony Brueckner (1997). Externalism and Memory. *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 78, 1-12.

Jane Heal (1998). Externalism and Memory. *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 72.

Michael Tye (1998). Externalism and Memory. *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 72.

Klaas Kraay (2002). Externalism, Memory, and Self-Knowledge, *Erkenntnis*, 56, 297-317.

Sven Bernecker (2010). *Memory: A Philosophical Study*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, Ch. 6.

John Campbell (1997). The Structure of Time in Autobiographical Memory, *European Journal of Philosophy*, 5, 105-118.

Jordi Fernandez (2008). Memory and Time. *Philosophical Studies* 141 (3):333 - 356.

Jordi Fernandez (2006). The Intentionality of Memory. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 84 (1):39-57.