

CRAVER
L64 495
7L09

Course Title: Philosophy and Memory

Description:

Memory is at or near the core of what we take to be essential for understanding the distinctive capacities of the human mind. Memory of one sort or the other is required to explain everything that we have learned and most of what we claim to know, most of what we do, and much of our own attitude toward our pasts and ourselves. Memories of different sorts arguably form the raw material out of which we construct possible futures (for the world and ourselves), are arguably involved in our ability to assess, compare, and choose among those futures, and are necessary for following through on plans. Memory in all its guises would thus appear to be a crucial part of our scientific explanation for the distinctive epistemic and moral status accorded to people (or agents).

This course surveys philosophical discussions of memory with an eye to the potential relevance of empirical studies of memory. For example, we will discuss direct realist theories of memory in relationship to psychological findings about the constructive nature of memory. We will discuss the relevance of recent research on episodic, prospective, and working memory for debates on personal identity and agency. We will discuss the role of episodic memory and working memory in our understanding of time and its passing. We will discuss the role of mental time travel in reasoning and making decisions about counter-factual and factual futures. We will discuss the epistemic function of memory in empiricist views of knowledge and justification in relation to studies of false memories and memory illusions. Preparatory to these discussions, we will discuss what memory is, how many types of memory there are, how they are distinguished from other cognitive faculties (both individually and as a group), and from one another. However, the overall goal is to consider whether, and if so, how, recent findings from the science of memory help us to understand something about how the distinctive features of people are implemented in the cognitive systems of human beings.

This course should be of interest to neuroscientists and psychologists who want to learn about recent philosophical discussions of the concept of memory and its place in our understanding of the mind. It should be of interest to philosophers of mind and ethicists interested in naturalism about agency and personhood. It should be of interest to philosophers of science interested in concept formation in psychology. It should be of interest to metaphysicians interested in memory theories of personal identity and the nature of the subject's relation to the past in memory. Finally it should be of interest to epistemologists interested in the role of memory in justification.

Some knowledge of the science of memory would be extremely useful but is not required. Some background in philosophy would be extremely useful but is not required.

Meets: Tuesday 2:30-5 Wilson 104.

Course Requirements:

Overview: This is a seminar. The quality of this course depends on active student participation. Assignments are designed to maximize detailed understanding of the philosophical and scientific issues involved and to spur creative thought about the relationship between philosophy, neuroscience, and psychology.

1) **One Classroom Presentation.** (15%). You will present one article (or one group of articles) to the class. You should prepare a handout containing, in condensed form, a) the title, author, and thesis of the article, b) a list of major topics in order, c) reconstruction of pertinent arguments, and d) critical discussion questions. Your presentation should be well-organized and professional. You should think of yourself as teaching the content of the article. You should also come prepared with questions for the class. (Sign up on Day 1).

2) **One Short Paper** (5-7 pages). On the topic of your presentation (15%). Due one week after your presentation.

3) **One Term Paper** (10-15 pages). On the topic of your choice, pending approval by the instructor by **November 1**. (30%). Due on the Friday of the last week of classes.

4) **Three Very Short Papers** relating some topic outside of class to a topic inside of class. Find an article, a news story, a film, a piece of literature, a work of art, an interpersonal interaction, or what have you, that relates to some topic discussed in class. Turn in the object (the article, news story, image, etc.) along with a two-page discussion of how the phenomenon relates to the issue in class and that makes clear why you find it interesting in that context ($10\% \times 3 = 30\%$). These can be handed in at any time.

5) **Attendance and Participation** (10%). Students are expected to attend all classes and to come prepared for class discussion. Discussion will be taken into account when assigning a participation grade.

General Notes.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student guilty of plagiarizing will fail the course.

Students are expected to do the readings and to come to class prepared to argue and discuss. This is not a lecture course.

All papers should be typed, spell-checked, and grammar-checked. Papers that do not satisfy this requirement will be returned ungraded and docked as late.

Page limits presume 12 point font and standard margins.

Late papers will not be accepted.

What is Memory?

1) Memory: Past and Present at a Glance

- Roediger, H.L., Dudai, Y. Fitzpatrick, S. eds. (2007) *Science of Memory: Concepts*
Dudai, Y. 2007 "Memory: It's all about representations."
Moscovitch, M. 2007 "Memory: Why the Engram is Elusive."
Schacter, D. 2007: "Memory: Delineating the Core."
Morris, R.G.M. 2007 "Memory: Distinctions and Dilemmas."
Hume, D. (1739-40) *A Treatise of Human Nature*. Bk. 1 Sect. 1-4.
Locke, J. *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Ch. 10 "Of Retention."

2) Russell and Reid: Representing versus Direct Acquaintance

- Reid, T. (1785) [1941] *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*. Essay III
"Memory." A.D. Woozley ed., Macmillan Press.
Russell, B. (1921) *Analysis of Mind*, Lecture IX "Memory" George Allen and
Unwin, LTD: London.

Further Reading:

- Warnock, M. (1987). *Memory*. (London: Faber) Ch. 2.
Malcolm, N. (1977) "Memory as Direct Awareness of the Past" in *Memory and Mind* Ch. 1, 2. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
Bernecker, S. (2008) Ch. 5 "The Primary Objects of Memory" *Metaphysics of Memory*. Springer: Dordrecht.

3) Causal Theories of Memory

- Martin, J.B. and Deutscher, M. "Remembering." *Philosophical Review* 75: 161-96.
Bernecker, S. 2008. "Motivations for a Causal Theory of Memory." *Metaphysics of Memory*. Springer: Dordrecht.
E.M. Zemach (1983) "Memory: What it is and What it Cannot Possibly Be." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 44: 31-44.

4) The Engram: Should the Search Continue?

- Moscovitch, M. (2007) "Memory: Why the Engram is Elusive." (See Day 1 above)
Tulving, E. (2007) "Coding and Representation: Searching for a home in the brain."
Dickinson, A.R. (2000) Still in Search of the Engram. *Psychology*: 11(037).
Bernecker, S. (2008) Ch. 3. "An Argument for Memory Traces." *Metaphysics of Memory*. Springer: Dordrecht.

Further Reading:

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

Memory, Self, and Ethics

5) Amnesia and The Self

Kihlstrom, J.F. and Beer, J. (1996) "Memory and Self." Unedited manuscript that appeared in M.R. Leary & J. Tangney (Eds.), *Handbook of self and identity* (pp. 68-90). New York: Guilford Press, 2002.

Evers, K. (1999) "Korsakoff Syndrome: The Amnesic Self" *International Journal of Applied Philosophy* 13:2.

Sacks, O. (1970) "The Lost Mariner." *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*.

6) Q-Memories and Circularity

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

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

7) Memory and Moral Community

Driver, J. (forthcoming) "Memory, Desire, and Values" in *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. 80-93.

Margalit, A. (2004) *Ethics of Memory* Chs. 3 and 4

8) Memory and Moral Patients

Brown, M.T. (2000) "The Morality of Abortion and the Deprivation of Futures." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 26:103-105.

Varner, G. (forthcoming) "Personhood, Memory, and Elephant Management," invited contribution to Christen Wemmer and Catherine Christen eds., *Elephants and Ethics: The Morality of Coexistence*, Johns Hopkins University Press (forthcoming).

Varner, G. (forthcoming) "The Moral Significance of Memory, Planning and Biographical Consciousness."

9) Memory and Moral Agents

Koutsal, W. (1995) "Situating Ethics and Memory" *American Philosophical Quarterly* 32: 253-262.

Nietzsche, F. *Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay.

Birch, C. (2000) "Memory and Punishment" *Criminal Justice Ethics* 19: 77-30.

10) Memory, Time, and Agency

- Klein, S., Loftus, E. and Kihlstrom, J. (2002) "Memory and Temporal Experience: The Effects of Episodic Memory Loss on An Amnesic Patient's Ability to Remember the Past and Imagine the Future." *Social Cognition* 20: 353-379.
- Hoerl, C. (1999) "Memory, Amnesia, and the Past", *Mind and Language* 14: 227-251.
- McCormack, T. (1999) "Temporal Concepts and Episodic Memory: A Response To Hoerl." *Mind and Language* 14: 252-262.

Further Reading:

- Campbell, John (1994) *Past, Space, and Self*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Campbell, John (1997) "The Structure of Time in Autobiographical Memory," *European Journal of Philosophy*. 5:105-118.

11) Memory and Future Thought

- Schacter, D.L. Addis, D.R. and Buckner, R.L. (2008) "Episodic Simulation of Future Events: Concepts, Data, Applications." *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 1124: 39-60.
- Boyer, P. (2008) "Evolutionary Economics of Mental Time Travel." *Trends in Cognitive Science*. 12:219-223
- Greene, J. and Haidt, J. (2002) "How (and where) does moral judgment work?" *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 6: 517-523.

Memory and Epistemology

12) Memory vs. Imagination

- Johnson, M.K., Foley, M.A., Suengas, A.G., and Raye, CL. (1988) "Phenomenal characteristics of memories for perceived and imagined events autobiographical events." *Journal of Experimental Psychology (Gen)* 117: 371-376.
- Jacoby, L.L., Kelley, C.M., & Dywan, J. (1989) Memory attributions. In H.L. Roediger & F.I.M. Craik (Eds.), *Varieties of memory and consciousness: Essays in honour of Endel Tulving*. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum. 391-422.
- Bernecker, S. (2008) "Against Representative Realism" *Metaphysics of Memory*. Springer: Dordrecht.

Roediger and Goff "Imagination Inflation.
Garry et. al.

13) Memory and Knowledge

- Roediger, H.L. and McDermott, K. (2000) "Distortions of Memory" in E. Tulving and F. Craik, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Memory*. OUP.
- Roediger and Gallo 2002.
- Mathen, M. (forthcoming) "Memory and Justification"
- Senor, T. (1993) "Internalist Foundationalism and the Justification of Memory Belief" *Synthese* 94:453-476.
- Bernecker, S. (2008) Ch. 7 "Skepticism, Externalism, and Closure" *Metaphysics of Memory*. Springer: Dordrecht.

Recommended

- Audi, R. (1995) "Memorial justification". *Philosophical Topics* 23: 31-45.
- Owens, D. (1999) "The Authority of Memory" *European Journal of Philosophy* 7: 312-329.
- Lackey, J. (2005) Memory as a Generative Epistemic Source. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 70 (3):636-65
- Loftus, E. (2003) "Our Changeable Memories: legal and practical Implications" *Nature Reviews Neuroscience* 4, 231-4.
- Schacter, D. L. (1995) 'Memory Distortion: history and current status', in Schacter (ed.) *Memory Distortion: how minds, brains, and societies reconstruct the past* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press), 1-43.
- Roediger 1996 *Journal of Memory and Language*.