

MINDS AND MACHINES
Philosophy 1xxx

INSTRUCTOR: Alison Duncan Kerr

OFFICE: 314F University Hall
OFFICE HOURS: n/a or by appt.
OFFICE PHONE: 614.292.3663

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LOCATION: n/a
TIME: n/a

I. REQUIRED TEXT.

Haugland, John. *Artificial Intelligence: The Very Idea* (AI)

Haugland, John (ed). *Mind Design II: Philosophy, Psychology, Artificial Intelligence* (MDII)

Several other articles will be made available on reserve or Carmen.

II. COURSE WEBSITE: <https://carmen.osu.edu>

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION.

We will explore the evidence for and the consequences of the computational theory of mind. We will cover the guiding analogy (mind is to the brain as software is to hardware), central applications in cognitive processing, well-known objections (e.g., Searle's Chinese room), and popular alternatives (e.g., connectionist theories).

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS.

Your final grade is determined on the basis of participation during class, comprehension quizzes, two exams, and response papers. These requirements will be weighed as follows:

10%: Participation

15%: 3 Comprehension Quizzes

20%: 4 out of 5 Assigned Response Papers (1-2 pages each)

25%: Midterm Exam (4-6 pages)

30%: Final Exam (6-8 pages)

Participation and Attendance:

You are expected to attend every class, to have read the assigned readings before class, and to bring the readings with you to every class. This class is intended to be significantly discussion-oriented. Poor attendance will adversely affect your participation grade, but (good) participation in class will improve your participation grade. The quality, not just the quantity, of your participation is very important. I will call on students to answer specific questions about the assignments.

Pep Talk:

There is no doubt—philosophy is hard. You will find yourself grappling with ideas and language that are likely to seem quite obscure on the first read. My suggestion is to give the article a quick skim and then go

back and read it a second time slowly. This process might sound incredibly time-consuming, but you will find that the ideas sink in much more deeply, and this will save you time and energy in the end.

V. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT.

Academic misconduct—which includes plagiarism and cheating—will not be tolerated. If I suspect that a student is involved in academic misconduct, I am obligated to report it to the university. Penalties are severe and can include failure of the course, academic probation, and even expulsion. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the university’s policies on academic misconduct. They can be found here: <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>.

VI. DISABILITIES SERVICES.

Students who feel that they need special accommodations based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss specific needs. The Office for Disability Services should also be contacted at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to arrange the necessary accommodations. For further information, see: <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 AI, Introduction and ch. 1
- 3 AI, ch. 1
- 4 AI, ch. 1; Response Paper 1 Due
- 5 AI, ch. 2
- 6 AI, ch. 2
- 7 AI, ch. 2
- 8 AI, ch. 3; Response Paper 2 Due
- 9 AI, ch. 3
- 10 AI, ch. 3 and review
- 11 Midterm exam
- 12 Haugland, “What is Mind Design?” in MDII
- 13 Haugland, “What is Mind Design?” in MDII
- 14 Dennett, “True Believers,” in MDII; Response Paper 3 Due
- 15 Dennett, “True Believers,” in MDII
- 16 Searle, “Minds, Brains, and Programs,” in MDII
- 17 Searle, “Minds, Brains, and Programs,” in MDII
- 18 Rumelhart, “The Architecture of Mind,” in MDII; Response Paper 4 Due
- 19 Rumelhart, “The Architecture of Mind,” in MDII
- 20 Summary of computational theory and its problems
- 21 Review for final; Response Paper 5 Due
- 22 Final exam