

Revised on 12/4/12

This is NOT the final version of the Syllabus
An updated version will be posted on the
course Sakai site.

Human Nature & Human Diversity

Philosophy 253 (01:730:253)
&
Cognitive Science 253 (01:185:253)
Spring Term 2013

Syllabus – Part I: Information About the Course

This syllabus has two Parts. This part, Part I, contains a lot of information about the course, including information about the goals of the course, the Sakai website, the grading system, the attendance policy, and the policy on cheating and plagiarism. You should read Part I carefully at the beginning of the term, and consult it again whenever you have questions about the course. If you can't find the answer to your question, the course Instructors will be happy to help. Part II: Topics and Readings is a detailed list of the lecture topics and assigned readings, arranged by date. Part II will be revised frequently. You will be notified by e-mail whenever a revised version of "Topics and Readings" is posted on the course Sakai site.

How the Philosophy Course and the Cognitive Science Course are Related

Officially, Human Nature & Human Diversity is two courses, Philosophy 253 and Cognitive Science 253. However, the Lectures and Sections meet in the same rooms at the same time. There are Philosophy and Cognitive Science students in each Section. The courses have the same instructors and the requirements are identical. So for all practical purposes, Philosophy 253 and Cognitive Science 253 are a single course.

Where and When the Course Meets

The **Lecture** meets in 105 Voorhees Hall, Monday & Thursday, 3rd period (= 11:30 – 12:50)

There are 9 **Sections**. The time and location of the sections is as follows:

- | | | | |
|----|----------|---------------|--------|
| 01 | Monday | 10:05 – 11:00 | SC-214 |
| 02 | Monday | 10:05 – 11:00 | SC-106 |
| 03 | Monday | 10:05 – 11:00 | FH-B6 |
| 04 | Monday | 10:05 – 11:00 | HH-B3 |
| 05 | Thursday | 10:05 – 11:00 | SC-106 |
| 06 | Thursday | 10:05 – 11:00 | SC-214 |
| 07 | Thursday | 10:05 – 11:00 | FH-A2 |

08 Thursday 10:05 – 11:00 FH-B6

09 TBA

Instructors

Prof. Stephen Stich

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Office Hours: Monday & Thursday 1:00– 3:00, and by appointment

Dr. Justin Kalef

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Office: TBA

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Office Hours: TBA

Other Instructors: TBA

Core Curriculum Information

Both Philosophy 253 and Cognitive Science 253 count as 3 credits toward the 21st Century Challenges requirement of the Core Curriculum. Specifically they meet Goal a. “Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person's experiences of and perspectives on the world” and Goal b. “Analyze a contemporary global issue from a multidisciplinary perspective.”

Both courses also count as 3 credits meeting the Arts and Humanities Goal o Core Requirement: “Examine Critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.”

Assessment will be by an SAS generic rubric embedded in the evaluation criteria laid out in this syllabus.

The Goals of the Course

The course has three goals.

- 1) To acquaint students with some of the descriptive facts about human diversity in a variety of domains including:
 - i) mating (sex, love and marriage)
 - ii) morality

- iii) religion
- iv) race

Students will also learn about some of the features of human psychology and human culture that are universal and thus, perhaps, a reflection of an innate human nature.

2) To examine and critically assess some of the theories that have been proposed to explain why various sorts of human diversity exists. The theories considered will be:

- i) evolutionary psychology
- ii) environmental variability and cultural materialism
- iii) gene-culture co-evolution and the tribal instincts hypothesis
- iv) social construction

3) To explore some of the philosophical issues that are linked to various aspects of human nature and various sorts of human diversity. Issues that will be considered include:

- (i) The role of reason, emotion and intuition in moral judgment
- (ii) Moral objectivity vs. cultural relativism vs. moral skepticism
- (iii) How should we deal with the diversity of moral, religious and political views in our culture and around the world?
- (iv) Moral controversies about polygamy, female genital mutilation, the legitimacy of appeals to disgust or repugnance in the law, and the advisability of retaining racial categories

Important Note About E-mail

You will be getting lots of e-mails about the course. These e-mails can only be sent to your official Rutgers e-mail address. So you should monitor that e-mail account frequently. If you usually use a non-Rutgers e-mail account (e.g. gmail or Hotmail) you should arrange to have your Rutgers e-mail forwarded to the account you usually use.

Sakai Site

Much of the material needed for the course will be available on Rutgers Sakai, one of the electronic course platforms offered by Rutgers. To access this material, go to

<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/>

or just Google "Rutgers Sakai". You will need a Rutgers NetID to enter Sakai. Once you're on Sakai you should see a tab that says "Stich- Human Nature & Human Diversity". If that tab is not visible on the top of the Sakai screen, click on "My Active Sites". If "Stich – Human Nature & Human Diversity" is not there either, ask one of the course Instructors for help.

When you get to the "Stich – Human Nature & Diversity" page, there will be a column on the left with a number of buttons. Much of the material you will need in the course, *including most of the readings*, can be found in the Resources folder that you can reach by clicking on "Resources".

Grading

Your grade for the course will be determined by your grade on the following five components of the course:

1) Mid-term exam

This will be an essay exam. All the questions will be distributed in advance. The date can be found on Part II of this Syllabus.

2) Final exam

This will be an essay exam. All the questions will be distributed in advance. The date can be found on Part II of this Syllabus. The Final exam is NOT cumulative. It will cover the material from the Mid-term onward.

3) I>Clicker quizzes

Starting on Monday, February 4, there will be two I>Clicker quizzes in each lecture. The first will begin about 5 minutes after the beginning of the lecture. The second will be at the end of the lecture. There will be three multiple choice questions in each quiz. You will get 1 I>Clicker point for every question you answer (whether or not your answer is correct). If your answer is correct, you will get 2 additional I>Clicker points. Thus you can earn a maximum of 18 I>Clicker points in each lecture (6 quiz questions each worth 3 points). Some of the I>Clicker quiz questions will be based on the assigned reading; some will be based on the material in the lecture or in the preceding lecture. The “curve” mapping I>Clicker scores to the 40 point grading scale used in this course will be posted on Sakai and updated periodically. In computing your final I>Clicker score, the 4 lowest days will be dropped.

4) Discussion section presentation

Each student will participate in the preparation of a presentation on some aspect of human nature or human diversity. Topics will be announced in sections and on Sakai. Students are welcome to suggest additional topics. The presentations will be prepared by groups of 3 to 6 students. The presentation will be graded “collectively” – all the students in the group will receive the same grade. Students can volunteer to participate in more than one presentation. If you participate in several presentations, only your highest grade will count in computing your course grade.

5) Research paper / video / poster / etc.

Each student will write a paper of roughly 3000-4000 words on some aspect of human nature or human diversity. Topics will be announced in sections and on Sakai. Students are welcome to suggest additional topics. Instead of writing a paper, students may create a video, prepare a poster or present their research in some other format, with the consent of the discussion section instructor.

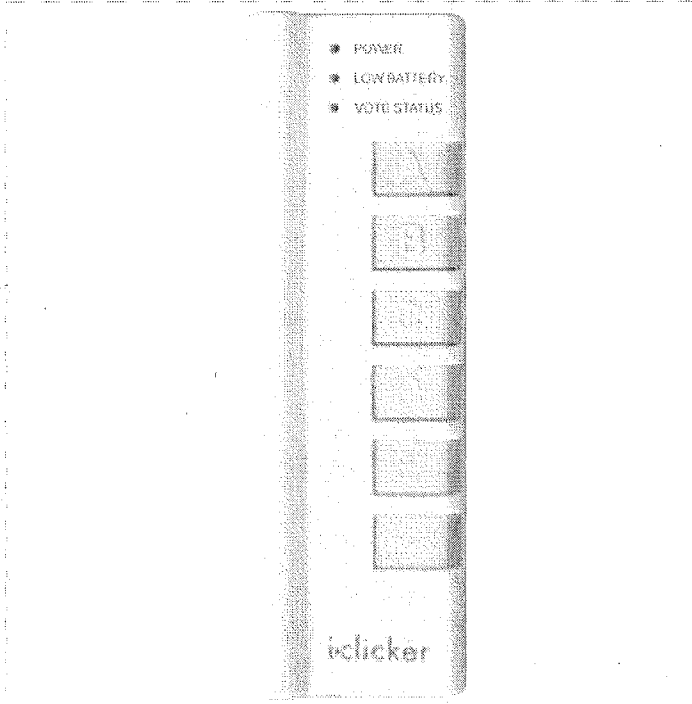
In computing your grade for the course, each of the 5 items above will be counted equally:

Mid-term exam	20%
Final exam	20%
I>Clicker quizzes	20%

Discussion section presentation	20%
Research paper	20%

Important note on I>Clickers: I>Clicker quizzes will be an important part of your grade. **So you must obtain and register an I>Clicker.** The quizzes will be designed for the “Generation 1” I>Clicker, not for the newer and more expensive I>Clicker2. However, the I>Clicker2 can also be used. A picture of the “Generation 1 I>Clicker appears below. I>Clickers can be purchased at campus area bookstores. They can also be purchased on-line. A recent search on Amazon.com turned up new I>Clickers at prices starting from \$22 and used I>Clickers starting from \$15. They are also available on many other websites. I>Clicker quizzes will start on February 4. So you should be sure that you have your Clicker by February 4. If you come to class without your Clicker, your Clicker grade for that day will be ZERO.

i>clicker student remote (Gen1): Radio Frequency Classroom Response System



Attendance Policy

Attendance statement required by Rutgers: “Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.”

OK. Now that you have read the statement required by Rutgers, here is an explanation of how attendance will be handled in this course.

LECTURE: There is no formal attendance requirement in the LERCTURE for this course. However, starting on February 4, there will be two I>Clicker quizzes in each class. If you miss class, your grade for those two quizzes will be zero. Even if you have not done the reading assigned for a lecture, you would be wise to attend the lecture and take the quizzes, since you will get one I>Clicker point for each question you answer, even if your answer is wrong. At the end of the term, your quiz grades for the lowest four days will be dropped before computing and curving your I>Clicker grade for the term. Thus you will, in effect, have four automatically excused absences. You might think of them as “free passes.” But it would be wise to use these free passes VERY cautiously since, as explained below, if you are ill the first four lectures you miss will not be excused. You will be expected to use your free passes for them.

If you have a legitimate excuse for missing a lecture (e.g., a documented medical excuse or family emergency or a religious holiday) you should print the **two** copies of the Excused Absence Form available in the Sakai Resources folder and give them to Prof. Stich along with appropriate documentation, like a letter from your health care provider. Prof. Stich will keep one copy on file and return the other copy to you. You should keep it until after your final grade has been recorded. If, at the end of the term, you have more than four excused absences, you will be expected to use your free passes for the first four. Quiz grades for additional excused absence days will be dropped before computing your average quiz grade for the term.

SECTIONS: Starting on February 4, attendance will be taken at every section meeting. You can miss two section meetings with no penalty. (So you have two “free passes” for missed sections.) For each additional section meeting you miss, one point will be deducted from your final grade on the 40 point scale used in this course. If you have a legitimate excuse for missing a section, you should follow the procedure described in the previous paragraph. For your first two excused section absences, you will be expected to use your free passes. Additional excused absences will incur no penalty.

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

The policy on cheating and plagiarism in this course is very simply. **If you cheat or plagiarize you will fail the course.** You will also be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Since I>Clicker quizzes determine a substantial part of students’ grades in this course, at the end of a lecture we will sometimes randomly select 10 or 15 names and ask those students to identify themselves and show photo ID before leaving the lecture room. If a student is not present and his or her I>Clicker has been used during the class, the student will fail the course and be reported to the university authorities.

For additional information on the Rutgers University policies on academic integrity, go to <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>.

Version # 5

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&

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Spring Term 2013

Syllabus – Part II: Topics & Readings

Part II of the Syllabus is a WORK IN PROGRESS, and will be throughout the term. Readings and Videos will change as I discover better material. (Suggestions are ALWAYS welcome!) Dates will inevitably be adjusted as we find that some topics need extra discussion and debate while others can be covered more quickly. Changes in Part II of the Syllabus will be announced in lecture, in the Announcements on Sakai and via e-mail.

January 24

Lecture topic: Introduction to the Course

Video (in lecture): *The Science of Sex Appeal*, Part 1

January 28

Lecture topic: Evolutionary Psychology: Part I: Evolution & Natural Selection

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):

Workman & Reader, *Evolutionary Psychology*, Ch. 1

Videos (in lecture):

(i) Baba Brinkman, *Artificial Selection*

(ii) *The Science of Sex Appeal*, Part 2 & 3

January 31

Lecture topic: Evolutionary Psychology: Part I: Evolution & Natural Selection (cont'd) & Part II: Some Important Ideas from Cognitive Science

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):

(i) Workman & Reader, *Evolutionary Psychology*, Ch. 2

(ii) Anderson, "Introduction to Functionalism"

Video (in lecture): *The Science of Sex Appeal*, Part 4

February 4

Lecture topic: Evolutionary Psychology: Part II: Some Important Ideas from Cognitive Science

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):

Clark, "Meat Machines: Mindware as Software"

Kurzban, "Evolution and the Fragmented Brain"

Video (in lecture): *The Science of Sex Appeal*, Parts 5 & 6

February 7

GUEST LECTURE by Prof. Mark Baker (Dept. of Linguistics)

Lecture topic: Code Talkers, Nativism & Parameters

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture): TBA

February 11

Lecture topic: Sexual Selection, Parental Investment and Human Mate Choice: Part I

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):

Workman & Reader, *Evolutionary Psychology*, Ch. 3

Video (in lecture): *The Science of Sex Appeal*, Parts 7 & 8

February 14

Lecture topic: Sexual Selection, Parental Investment and Human Mate Choice: Part II

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):

Workman & Reader, *Evolutionary Psychology*, Ch. 4

Video (in lecture): *The Science of Sex Appeal*, Parts 9 - 11

February 18

GUEST LECTURE by Prof. Robert Kurzban (Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Pennsylvania)

Lecture topic: Modularity & Why Everyone (Else) is a Hypocrite

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture): TBA

February 21

Lecture topic: How Evolutionary Psychology Can Contribute to Debates About Morality & Public Policy: Mill's Harm Principle & Polygamy

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):

Mill, *On Liberty*, Excerpts

Reading on Libertarianism & marriage (TBA)

Video (in lecture): *Sister Wives* (selections)

February 25

Lecture topic: How Evolutionary Psychology Can Contribute to Debates About Morality & Public Policy: Mill's Harm Principle & Polygamy

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):

Wright, *The Moral Animal*, Ch. 4 "The Marriage Market"

Bramham, "Legalized Polygamy Would Be an Attack on Hard-Won Rights"

Turley, "One Big Happy Polygamous Family"

Video (in lecture): *Sister Wives* (selections)

February 28

GUEST LECTURE by Prof. Helen Fisher (Dept. of Anthropology, Rutgers)

Lecture topic: LUST, ROMANCE, ATTACHMENT: Evolution of Romantic love and Mate Choice.

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture): TBA

March 4

Lecture topic: Some Basic Concepts in Moral Philosophy: Moral Realism, Moral Relativism & Moral Skepticism

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture): TBA

Video (in lecture)

March 7

Guest Lecturer: John Mikhail

Lecture topic: How Much of Morality is Innate?

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture): TBA

March 11

Lecture topic: How Cognitive Science Can Contribute to the Debate Between Moral Realists, Moral Relativists & Moral Skeptics, Part 1 Explaining Moral Progress

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)

Harris, *Good to Eat*, Ch. 1, "Good to think or Good to Eat?" & Ch. 8, "Small Things"

Haidt, *The Righteous Mind*, Ch. 1

Video (in lecture): TBA

March 14: MIDTERM EXAM

March 16-24 [Spring Break]

March 25

Lecture topic: How Cognitive Science Can Contribute to the Debate Between Moral Realists, Moral Relativists & Moral Skeptics, Part 1 Explaining Moral Progress

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)

Harris, *Good to Eat*, Ch. 10, "People Eating"

Haidt, *The Righteous Mind*, Chs. 2 & 3

Video (in lecture): TBA

March 28

Lecture topic: How Cognitive Science Can Contribute to the Debate Between Moral Realists, Moral Relativists & Moral Skeptics, Part 2 Hopi Ethics & Cultures of Honor

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)

(i) Doris & Stich, "Moral Disagreement"

(ii) Nisbett, "Violence and U.S. Regional Culture"

(iii) Haidt, *The Righteous Mind*, Chs. 4 & 5

Video (in lecture): TBA

April 1

Lecture topic: How Cognitive Science Can Contribute to the Debate Between Moral Realists, Moral Relativists & Moral Skeptics, Part 3 Haidt's Foundations Theory

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)

Haidt, *The Righteous Mind*, Chs. 6, 7 & 8

Video (in lecture): TBA

April 4

Lecture topic: Social Learning & Gene-Culture Co-Evolution

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)

Haidt, *The Righteous Mind*, Chs. 9 & 10

Video (in lecture): TBA

April 8

Lecture topic: Religion

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)

Dawkins, "The Science of Religion"

Video (in lecture): TBA

April 11

Lecture topic: Religion
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
Henig, "Darwin's God"
Bloom, "Is God an Accident?"
Video (in lecture): TBA

April 15

Lecture topic: Religion
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
David Sloan Wilson, "Beyond Demonic Memes: Why Richard Dawkins is Wrong About Religion"
Norenzayan, "Why We Believe: Religion as a Human Universal"
Video (in lecture): TBA

April 18

Lecture topic: Religion
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
Haidt, *The Righteous Mind*, Ch. 11
Video (in lecture) TBA

April 22 [Race]

Film in class: *Race: The Power of an Illusion: Part I "The Difference Between Us"*
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
(i) Diamond, "Race Without Color"
(ii) Mallon & Kelly, "Making Race Out of Nothing"

April 25 [Race]

Film in class: *Race: The Power of an Illusion: Part II "The Story We Tell"*
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
Nisbett, *Intelligence and How to Get It*, Ch. 1 "Varieties of Intelligence, & Ch. 2 "Heritability and Mutability"

April 29[Race]

Lecture topic: Race & IQ
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
Nisbett, *Intelligence and How to Get It*, Ch. 6 "IQ in Black and White"

May 2 [Race]

GUEST LECTURE by Prof. Ron Mallon (Director of the Philosophy, Neuroscience & Philosophy Program, Washington University)
Lecture topic: Making Race Out of Nothing
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture): TBA

May 6 [Race]

Lecture topic: Getting Rid of Racism and Getting Rid of Race
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
(i) TBA – on elimination & retention
(ii) Kelly, Faucher & Machery, "Getting Rid of Racism: Assessing Three Proposals in Light of Psychological Evidence"
Film in class: *Race: The Power of an Illusion: Part III (short version) "The House We Live In"*