Philosophy of Perception (730:419)  
Spring 2016  
MW 2:50 – 4:10  
Scott 220, CAC

1. Instructor: Professor Frances Egan  
106 Somerset St., 5th Floor, Rm.532,  
email: fegan@rci.rutgers.edu

Office hours: Mondays 4:30 – 6, and by appointment.

Sakai website: Course announcements, assignments, etc. will be posted on the course's Sakai website. Email notification of these postings will be sent automatically to your RU email address.

2. Course Description. We will examine philosophical accounts of perceptual experience and its relation to reality, considering such questions as: How does perception give rise to knowledge of the world? What properties, if any, are represented in perception? What is the difference between perception and belief? What, if anything, does perception have in common with hallucination? Is visual perception special?

3. Course Learning Goals: Mastery of the material covered in class, and related assigned material, as measured by required coursework (see below).

4. Required Coursework.

There will be a short written assignment given on Monday, February 22nd, due at the next class on Wednesday February 24th, worth 10% of the final grade. The rest of the grade will be based on mid-term and final examinations, and a paper (8-10 pages in length) on an assigned topic. These three elements will be weighted equally. The final exam will be held on Wednesday, May 11th, 12 – 2pm.

Students are expected to attend all classes. If you anticipate missing a class, 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.

5. Academic Integrity: Any violation of academic integrity will be dealt with strictly in accordance with published University policies. There will be no second chances, leniency, etc. http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/

6. Required Texts.

The main course text is William Fish’s Philosophy of Perception: A Contemporary Introduction (Routledge Press, 2010). Additional required reading will be available on the Sakai website.

Introduction to the philosophy of perception:
   Fish, ch.1

Sense-data theories:
   Fish, ch.2

Adverbial theories:
   Fish, ch.3

Belief-acquisition theories:
   Fish, ch.4

Intentional theories:
   Fish, ch.5
   Fred Dretske, “Experience as Representation”
   Alex Byrne, “Intentionalism Defended”
   Additional readings TBA

Disjunctive theories:
   Fish, ch.6
   Additional readings TBA

The relation between philosophy of perception and the science of perception:
   Fish, ch.8
   Additional readings, including readings on color, TBA

Non-visual perception:
   Fish, ch.9
   Additional readings TBA