

**NOT A CURRENT SYLLABUS – use this Fall 2014 syllabus to get  
an idea about content of course for**

**Psychology 378  
Consciousness**

**LWICHLIN, Olin 123  
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Fall Term, 2014**

**Required books:** Blakemore, S. (2012). Consciousness: An Introduction, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

Bor, D. (2012). The Ravenous Brain. New York: Basic Books.

Dehaene, S. (2014). Consciousness and the Brain. New York: Viking Press

**Office Hours:** MON. 2-3 p.m.; THURS. 3-4 p.m.

**About the Course:**

Welcome to Psychology 378, Consciousness! This is the first time I've taught this seminar, and I couldn't be more excited. Rarely do I/we get to cover a specialized topic in as much detail as we will in this course.

Because it's a seminar, most of our classes will take place in discussion format. I may have occasional mini-lectures, but plan for the majority of our classes to revolve around discussion.

Due to the small size of our class, your individual contributions will be more important than ever. Know in advance that I may periodically call upon you if I haven't heard you speak in awhile, a practice that I typically refrain from doing in most of my courses.

The core of this course will be the three books listed above. On occasion I may assign an article, book chapter, website, or interview to supplement regular course reading assignments.

As part of your participation grade, I may ask you to submit occasional written assignments. These will not involve any research beyond the assigned course readings.

Please come to every class prepared to offer at least 3 key points from each chapter, if called upon to do so. I may occasionally ask you to submit these key points in writing, but I'll let you know at least one class in advance if that's the case.

A course like this one will likely raise issues that touch upon your personal belief systems. Not only do I think that's OK, it seems to me that that's what a really good liberal arts course should do.

If you have concerns or opinions with how the class is going, please let me know. I can't guarantee I'll make changes to your liking, but I will seriously consider what you have to say.

Finally, because this is the first time I've taught this course, I may move some topics and readings around if it makes sense as our term unfolds.

#### **Assessment:**

First Exam	25%
Second Exam	25 %
Third Exam	25%
Class Participation	25 %

I do not yet know exactly what the exams will consist of, but there's a high probability that they will be written, take-home exams. I may substitute a "project" for the third exam.

#### **E-tiquette**

Please use electronic devices for course-related matters only.

#### **Students with Special Needs:**

If you have special needs that you'd like me to know about, don't hesitate to mention them.

#### **Final Thoughts:**

Normally I do not answer email on weekends, so if you send me one over the weekend, I probably won't answer it until Monday, at the soonest. But I'll try to get back to you as quickly as I can.

Have a great term!

### Course Calendar:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Topic and Assignment</u>
Sept. 16th	Tues.	Overview and Course Introduction
Sept. 18th	Thurs.	Consciousness: The Problem <i>Assignment:</i> Blackmore, Introduction + Chapters 1; Bor, Introduction + Chapter 1
Sept. 23rd	Tues.	Consciousness: The World <i>Assignment:</i> Blackmore, Chapters 2-6
Sept. 25th	Thurs.	Consciousness: The Self <i>Assignment:</i> Blackmore, Chapters 7-9
Sept. 30th	Tues.	Consciousness: The Brain <i>Assignment:</i> Blackmore, Chapters 10-11;
Oct. 2nd	Thurs.	The Ravenous Brain I <i>Assignment:</i> Bor, Chapters 2-3
Oct. 7th	Tues.	The Ravenous Brain II <i>Assignment:</i> Bor, Chapters 4-5; Dehaene, Chapter 1
Oct. 9th	Thurs.	Consciousness & the Brain, Continued, <i>Assignment:</i> Dehaene, Chapters 2 + 4
Oct. 14th	Tues.	Consciousness & Evolution I <i>Assignment:</i> Blackmore, Chapters 13-14; Dehaene, Chapter 3
Oct. 16th	Thurs.	Consciousness & Evolution II: Animal Consciousness <i>Assignment:</i> Blackmore, Chapter 15; Bor, Chapter 6
Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tues.	Advancing a Theory of Consciousness <i>Assignment:</i> Dehaene, Chapter 5
Oct. 23rd	Thurs.	Damaged Brains I <i>Assignment:</i> Blackmore, Chapter 12; Dehaene, Chapter 6
<b>Oct. 28th</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	Damaged Brains II <i>Assignment:</i> Bor, Chapters 7-8
Oct. 30th	Thurs.	The Borderlands of Consciousness <i>Assignment:</i> Blackmore, Chapters 19-21

Nov. 4th	Tues.	Altered States of Consciousness <i>Assignment:</i> Blackmore, Chapters 22-24
Nov. 6th	Thurs.	Consciousness Plus <i>Assignment:</i> Blackmore, Chapter 25-27
Nov. 11th	Tues.	Artificial Consciousness <i>Assignment:</i> Blackmore, Chapters 16-18
Nov. 13th	Thurs.	The Future of Consciousness <i>Assignment:</i> Dehaene, Chapter 7
Nov. 18th	Tues.	Consciousness in the Rest of the Universe <i>Assignment:</i> TBA