FALL 2019
PHIL 3422
Philosophical Issues in Cognitive Science
Professor Fletcher Maumus
Section MW9  Code 20956
Mon, Wed 9:30 – 10:45 AM

Course Description

Cognitive science is an interdisciplinary approach to understanding mentality, thought, and consciousness that combines insights from a multitude of fields, including philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, computer science, linguistics, anthropology, and evolutionary biology. This class is a survey of some of the central philosophical perplexities that have arisen from this multi-faceted empirical study of human and animal minds in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Central questions to be addressed include: What is it to have a mind? Could machines think? Do machines think already? Is the human mind, itself, just a computer made of “meat”? What are thoughts and how do they acquire their meaning? What is language’s role in thought and vice versa? Can non-linguistic creatures like animals think like us? What is consciousness? Can it ever be truly understood from a scientific perspective?

For more information, please contact Prof. Fletcher Maumus: fletcher.maumus@gmail.com