

Spring 2018

Phil 3422: Philosophical Issues in Cognitive Science

Section EM6 Registration Code 32314

3 credits

Mondays 6:30 – 9:15 P.M.

Prof. Fletcher Maumus

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 or content? What is the relationship between thought and language? Is there a language of thought, itself? What is consciousness? Must all creatures with minds be conscious?