Short Assignments

Your short assignments should be 1-2 pages long each (no more than 2 pages). It should address a central topic in the reading. You shouldn’t try to discuss the entire article, but rather focus on some criticism of a central idea/argument in one of the assigned readings.

Email me your short assignment by 6pm on the day before class. Please sign up for four short assignments.

Three people may sign up for the same day.

We will begin with this on January 28th
Have to be a bit flexible (for instance, we will skip the exercise when we have guest lectures

Philosophical background:
Jan 28: Noam Chomsky (1967). Recent contributions to the theory of innate ideas
Hilary Putnam (1967). The 'matenness hypothesis' and the explanatory models in linguistics
i. Kevin Axtmayer
ii. David Vitela


i. Sean Humphrys
ii. Chris Sudder

i. Kora Haunmeyer
ii. Anastasia Gorbunova

Feb. 6

i. Kora Haunmeyer
ii. Anastasia Gorbunova

Feb. 8

i. Michelle Gandel
ii. David Vitela

Feb. 11: Philosophical background:

i. Kim Smith
ii. Paul Gallo

Feb. 13: Neuroimagining and psychopathologies

i. Nadia Cunti
ii. Kristina Yaffe

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Feb 15: Psychopathologies
   Koenigs et al. 2007
Moll vs. Greene in TICS
i. Paul Gladlen
ii. Jon Powell

Feb 18: Higher moral cognition
i. Kevin Mottitt
ii. Sanae Akiyama

Feb 20: The linguistic analogy
   i. Kim Hamhnome
   ii. Davi Vitela

Feb 25: Philosophical implications
   Greene, Secret Joke
   i. Kirsten Yaffe
   ii. Kevin Mottitt

Anger and Cooperation
Feb 27: Philosophical background:
   i. Martin Stone Davis
   ii. Kristina Waters

Feb 29: Evolution of anger:
   i. Sean Humphreys
   ii. Kristina Louise

March 3: Psychological characteristics of anger:
   i. Paul Gladlen
   ii. Chris Suddet

March 5: Punishment and cooperation:
   i. Sean Humphreys
   ii. Bill Becker

March 7: Neuroeconomics and ultimatum
   Alan Sanfey et al. (2006). Neuroeconomics. TICS.
   i. Bill Becker
   ii. Kirsten Yaffe
Free will

March 10: Philosophical background:
O'Connor, T. Free Will in Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
i. Jon Powell
ii. Anastasia Gorgunova

March 12: Social psychology and free will:
[Maybe, Self is Magic]
i. Paul Galleher
ii. Sean Humphreys

March 14:
Vohs & Schooler 2007 The Value of Free Will Psych Science Baumeister/Vohs...
i. Kristen Hatte
ii. Kristina Waters

March 24: Neuropsychology:
Libet, Mind Time, chapter 4
i. Anastasia Gorgunova
ii. Jon Powell

March 26:
Mele, Free Will and Luck, ch. 2
i. Chris Yehler
ii. Sande Akyama

March 31: Neuroeconomics and free will
Game theory: Glimcher on Maynard Smith
Glimcher 2002, Decisions, decisions, decisions Neuron 36, 323-332
i. Martin Stuev Davis
ii. Bill Becker

i. Glimcher 2003, Decisions, Uncertainty, and the Brain, 340-342

The self

April 7: Philosophical background:
i. Jon Powell
ii. Sande Akyama

April 9:
i. Jon Powell
ii. Martin Stuev Davis
April 11: Social Psychology:

April 14: Guest lecture: Toni Schmader

April 16: Cognitive neuroscience:

April 21: Philosophical background:

April 23: Development:

April 25: Vision

April 30: Vision continued

May 2: High-level cognition:

May 5:

May 7: Philosophy and psychology
Scholl, Object persistence in philosophy and psychology, forthcoming Mind & Language