

PSYCHOLOGY 371 COURSE SYLLABUS

Week 1: Introduction. Why study wisdom as a higher cognitive process. Beginning the philosophical background. Read Hall Chapters 1 and 2. Recommended reading Sternberg 1990 chapter 1.

Week 2: Philosophical background continued. Read Hall Chapters 1 and 2. Recommended readings: Sternberg 1990 chapter 2. Sternberg and Jordan 2005 chapters 1 and 3.

Week 3: Philosophical background finished and the psychology of foolishness begun. Read Sternberg 2002 chapters 2,4,5, 7, 11.

Week 4: The psychology of foolishness. Read Sternberg 2002 chapters. 2,4,5,7,11. Hall chapters 4,5, and 10.

Week 5: The psychology of foolishness. Read Sternberg 2002 chapters 2,4,5,7,11. Read Hall chapters 4, 5, and 10. Recommended is Sternberg and Jordan 2005 chapter 13.

Week 6: Rationality, intelligence and cognitive style. Hall Chapter s 7,8 and 11. Mark sure Sternberg 2002 chapter 7 is read then read Stanovich chapters 1-7. Recommended is Varela 1992 chapters 1 and 2

Weeks 7 and 8 . Rationality, intelligence and cognitive style. Read Kozhevnikov . Stanovich 8-11.

Weeks 9 and 10. Psychological theories of wisdom. Read McKee and Barber, Meeks and Jeste, Schwartz and Sharpe, Baltes and Staudinger, Staudinger 2008, Ardelt, and Sternberg 1998.

Week 11: Wisdom as enhanced relevance realization within a cognitive meta-style of rationally self-transcending rationality. Read Vervaeke and Ferraro

Week 12: Wisdom as enhanced relevance realization within a cognitive meta-style of rationally self-transcending rationality. Read Vervaeke and Ferraro

TEXTS:

Required:

Books:

Hall, Stephen. Wisdom: From Philosophy to Neuroscience.

Stanovich Keith What Intelligence Tests Miss: the psychology of rational thought.

Sternberg, Robert, (ed). 2002 Why Smart People Can Be So Stupid..

Articles to be found.

Ardelt, M 2004 Wisdom as Expert Knowledge System: A Critical Review of a Contemporary Operationalization of an Ancient Concept

Baltes, P and Staudinger U, 2000 Wisdom: A Meta-heuristic (pragmatic) to Orchestrate Mind and Virtue Towards Excellence.

Kozhevnikov, M 2007 Cognitive Styles in the Context of Modern Psychology: Toward an Integrated Framework of Cognitive Styles

McKee, P and Barber, C 1999 On Defining Wisdom

Meeks, T and Jeste, D 2009 Neurobiology of Wisdom: A Literature Overview

Schwartz B, and Sharpe K 2006 Practical Wisdom: Aristotle Meets Positive Psychology.

Staudinger, U 2008 A Psychology of Wisdom: History and Recent Developments

Sternberg, R. 1999 A Balance Theory of Wisdom.

Draft of following article will be provided on portal website:

Vervaeke and Ferraro (2012) Relevance, Meaning, and the Cognitive Science of Wisdom.

Recommended Texts.

Sternberg, 2003 Wisdom, Intelligence, and Creativity Synthesized.

Sternberg (ed) 1990 Wisdom: Its Nature Origins, and Development.

Sternberg and Jordan 2005 A Handbook of Wisdom: Psychological Perspectives.

Varela, F Ethical Know-how: Action, Wisdom and Cognition

EVALUATION

Essay 1: 2000 word essay on the psychological study of some aspect of foolishness. **Due February 25th.** Worth 20%. The essay is an argumentative theoretical essay in which one will critically review the theoretical arguments and empirical data of relevant existing research,

and from that construct an integrative argument as to the most plausible conclusion that can be drawn from the critical-integrative review. Foolishness is any form of behaviour that is crucially driven by self-deceptive and self-destructive cognition that is nevertheless cognitively and/or meta-cognitively accessible to modification, i.e., that can be addressed through learning and learning to learn. Foolishness is compulsive and resistant to change, but is nevertheless open to change in a way in which the cognitive agent plays a significant causal role in its own change. 10 independent (of course texts, which can still can be used as sources), from peer reviewed psychology journal, neuroscience journals, and cognitive science journals of the past 10 years is a minimum number of sources that must be used. Books may be used as sources if their authors that have published on the topic of their book in peer reviewed journals. Proper APA format including abstract and reference list is mandatory.

Essay 2: 3000 word essay on the psychological study of some aspect of wisdom. **Due March 31st.** Worth 30%. The essay is an argumentative theoretical essay in which one will critically review the theoretical arguments and empirical data of relevant existing research, and from that construct an integrative argument as to the most plausible conclusion that can be drawn from the critical-integrative review. This essay can be handled in two ways. The first is as a response to your first essay in which after examining a form of foolishness you will investigate the psychology of forms of ameliorating the foolishness. However, wisdom is more than overcoming foolishness it is also the affordance of flourishing, and therefore you need to discuss how the mechanisms of amelioration could be developed in order to enhance and improve statistically normal human cognition and behaviour. The second way you can do the wisdom essay is by critically reviewing the existing psychological theories of wisdom and providing an integrative argument as to what the best overall psychological account of wisdom is. For this paper you should note how each theory attempt to address how wisdom overcomes foolishness and affords flourishing. 15 independent (of course texts, which can still can be used as sources), from peer reviewed psychology journal, neuroscience journals, and cognitive science journals of the past 10 years is a minimum number of sources that must be used. Books may be used as sources if their authors that have published on the topic of their book in peer reviewed journals. Proper APA format including abstract and reference list is mandatory.

Final exam worth 50%. Format: 5 essay questions of which you will have to do 3.

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