

WashU Summer Experiences

Philosophy, Neuroscience, and Psychology Institute

2018 Syllabus

Instructor: Katie Rapier

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Academic Program Assistants (APAs): Janell Kim and Ali Michel

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Location: Seigle Hall, Room 206

Schedule

The institute is divided as follows:

- Morning Session (9:00am-12:00pm)
- Lunch (12:00-1:30pm)
- Afternoon Session (1:30-3:30pm)
- Independent Study/Academic Support Time (3:30-4:30pm)

Morning Session: This course will explore the intersection of philosophy, neuroscience, and psychology. Students will begin to ask philosophical questions, focusing on “what is the Good?” and evaluate philosophical arguments that seek to answer this question. The course will also provide a brief introduction to psychology with particular focus on mental health and the intersection between mental illness and morality. Finally, we will explore the burgeoning field of neuroscience, learning the basics of brain functioning and research to ask critical questions about the role of neuroscience in philosophy and psychology. The course will culminate in students writing their own Philosophy of Life.

Afternoon Sessions: Students will continue to build knowledge outside the classroom as you engage with outside discussants through guest lectures, field trips, and small group activities.

Course Packet: A course packet is available on our website: summerexperiences.wustl.edu/institutes/information-admitted-students. Students are required to bring the course packet to class each day. Students are not required to print the packet, and may use a computer or tablet to access the packet during class.

Textbook: Students will be provided a copy of Peter Singer’s *The Most Good You Can Do* for use during the program. Students are required to return this book at the end of the program.

Final Project

For the final project, students will write an 8-10 page Philosophy of Life. Students will discuss their notion of “the Good” and argue for why their theory of welfare is the most fitting. Moral Exercise Journal assignments will help students start thinking about what they should include in their Philosophy of Life. We will discuss the project daily in class.

Attendance

Timeliness and earnest engagement in all sessions is imperative to the general success of the institute and of your performance. Take care to attend each session on time every time. Academic Program Assistants will take attendance at all sessions. You are required to attend every session unless otherwise approved.

Participation in Class Activities

You are expected to actively participate in discussion, ask questions, and contribute during active learning sessions. While it is sometimes difficult to speak in class, your comments are valued as contributions to the collective understanding of course materials; actively participating will reinforce your grasp of the concepts, correct misunderstandings, and inspire deeper thought.

Professionalism

Please remember to treat everyone with patience and respect. Acknowledge and respect diversity and difference of opinion. Give classmates the benefit of the doubt and express concerns in a respectful way. Respect also includes using technology appropriately and considerately. Our classroom is a cellphone free environment. Please respect the rights of others to learn.

Student Performance Evaluation

You are evaluated based on attendance, participation in class activities, interaction with peers, professionalism, quality of work produced, as well as your ability to adhere to academic integrity standards and program policies. At the end of the program, students who have met the expectations of the program will receive a certificate of completion, letter of endorsement, and a completed performance evaluation.

Academic Integrity

As a member of our academic community you are bound by honor regarding your academic work. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, submitting work of another person or work previously used as your own, or tampering with the academic work of others. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. To view the policy visit: studentconduct.wustl.edu/academic-integrity/policies-and-procedures/.

Disability Resources

Washington University is committed to providing accommodations and/or services to students with documented disabilities. Students who are seeking support for a disability or a suspected disability should contact the Summer Experiences office at summerexperiences@wustl.edu.

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Date	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
Monday 7/2	<i>Readings:</i> Pryor “Guidelines on Reading Philosophy” and “What is an Argument?” (Packet – READ BEFORE CLASS); Selections from Aristotle <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> and Plato <i>The Republic</i> (Packet, will read in class) <i>Assignments:</i> Moral Exercise Journal #1 <i>Homework:</i> Singer <i>The Most Good You Can Do</i> – Introduction and Chapter 1	Schedule overview, evaluation expectations, and emergency procedures. Case Study Activity: “Split My Brain”
Tuesday 7/3	<i>Readings:</i> Selections from Mill <i>Utilitarianism</i> ; Heathwood <i>Welfare</i> (Packet) <i>Assignments:</i> Moral Exercise Journal #2 <i>Homework:</i> Singer <i>The Most Good You Can Do</i> – pgs 45-54 & Chapter 5	Guest Lecture: Introduction to Neurology and Neuroscience with Dr. Nupur Ghoshal
Wednesday 7/4	No classes. See 4 th of July event schedule for activities.	
Thursday 7/5	<i>Readings:</i> Cameron and Rapier “Compassion is Motivated Choice;” Montgomery, Kappes, and Crockett, “Compassion is Not Always a Motivated Choice: A Multiple Decision Systems Perspectives;” selections from Cameron and Rapier “Response to Comments” (Packet) <i>Assignments:</i> Brown Ted Talk (watch in class) <i>Homework:</i> Singer <i>The Most Good You Can Do</i> – Chapters 6 & 7, Moral Exercise Journal #3	Viewing and Discussion of <i>The Brain</i> Episode 1 “What is Reality?”
Friday 7/6	<i>Readings:</i> Paris, “The Ideology Behind DSM-5” (Packet) <i>Assignments:</i> BuzzFeed videos (watch in class) <i>Activities:</i> Guest Speaker from Washington University School of Medicine (Psychiatry), Dr. Paul Glaser (10AM) <i>Homework:</i> Singer <i>The Most Good You Can Do</i> – Chapters 8 & 9; Moral Exercise Journal #4	Guest Lecture: Biomedical Engineering/Brain Computer Interfaces with Dr. Noah Ledbetter
Saturday 7/7	<i>Assignments:</i> Partner Mental Disorder Projects & Presentations <i>Homework:</i> Singer <i>The Most Good You Can Do</i> – Chapters 10 & 11; Outline of Philosophy of Life (due at beginning of class)**	No afternoon activity-enjoy scheduled weekend outings and free time.
Monday 7/9	<i>Readings:</i> Feuillet, Dufour, and Pelletier, “Brain of a white-collar worker,” (Packet); Introduction to brain scanning; Neuroscience	Field Trip to St. Louis Zoo Natural Observational Field Research

	<p>Article (distributed in class) <i>Assignments:</i> Naturalistic Observation overview, Neuroscience Article Worksheet (Packet) <i>Activities:</i> Guest Speaker Dr. Karla Bergonzi, University of Pennsylvania (10:30AM) <i>Homework:</i> Singer <i>The Most Good You Can Do</i> – Chapters 12 & 14; Draft of Philosophy of Life</p>	<p>*Please be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for being outside.</p>
Tuesday 7/10	<p><i>Readings:</i> Detailed brain diagram (Packet) <i>Activities:</i> Finish Neuroscience Article & Worksheet, Parts of a Neuron, Brain Model Activity (in class)</p>	<p>Brain Dissection Lab</p> <p>*Please be sure to wear closed toe shoes, and bring/wear long pants and long-sleeves for this lab.</p>
Wednesday 7/11	<p><i>Readings:</i> Hilt, Hanson, and Pollak “Emotion Dysregulation,” Birbaumer et al, “Deficient Fear Conditioning in Psychopathy;” Zaki and Ochsner, “The Neuroscience of Empathy: Progress, Pitfalls, and Promise” (Packet) <i>Assignments:</i> Discussing Neuroscience in the Context of Philosophy and Psychology <i>Homework:</i> Revise Philosophy of Life</p>	<p>Electric Signals Lab Brauer Hall Room 2011</p> <p>*Please be sure to wear closed toe shoes.</p> <p>Student evaluations</p>
Thursday 7/12	<p>Institute Wrap-up</p>	<p>Final Philosophy of Life Student Project Presentations Goldberg Formal Lounge 2nd floor of DUC</p>