

**PHIL 3923H: Deception and Delusion**  
University of Arkansas, Fall 2008

**I. Contact Information**

Professor: Eric Funkhouser  
Office hours: TTh 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., and by appointment  
Office location: 308 Old Main  
Office phone: 575-7441  
Email: [efunkho@uark.edu](mailto:efunkho@uark.edu) (This is the best way to reach me.)

Class meeting time: TTh 11:00 a.m.- 12:20 p.m.  
Classroom: Old Main 327

Class webpage: <http://comp.uark.edu/~efunkho/deception.html>  
All class handouts, and some additional information, will be posted on this website. So, be sure to check it out from time to time.

**II. Texts (Required)**

1. Dennett, Daniel. 1987. *The Intentional Stance* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press).
2. Mele, Alfred. 2001. *Self Deception Unmasked* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press).
3. Hirstein, William. 2005. *Brain Fiction: Self-Deception and the Riddle of Confabulation* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press).
4. Stephens, G. Lynn and Graham, George. 2003. *When Self-Consciousness Breaks: Alien Voices and Inserted Thoughts* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press).

**III. Course Description**

Philosophers have long been interested in the nature of belief and rationality. But some psychological phenomena, because of the apparent irrationality

they involve, have continued to frustrate our attempts to attribute beliefs to, or otherwise understand the cognitive states of, certain people. Self-deception, confabulation, and delusional belief are prominent among such cases, and they constitute the subject matter for this course. We will examine several specific examples of self-deception, confabulation, and delusional belief in order to understand the challenges they pose for attributing beliefs to, and understanding the (ir)rationality of, such people. Studying these examples will also lead to a better understanding of belief itself.

#### IV. Grading

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

- Midterm exam (25%)
- Final exam (30%)
- A shortish paper (5–7 pages, say) (20%)
- A longer paper (10–12 pages, say) (25%)
- Participation (pushes the grade here or there)

#### V. Miscellaneous

- Assignments are due as listed on the schedule below, or as specified later in the semester. Late assignments will not be accepted, but for *extreme circumstances*. Even in these extreme circumstances (death in family, hospitalization, imprisonment, etc.) you should notify me *before* the assignment is due. This holds for exams as well.

- Academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism or cheating on tests) is taken very seriously. Any violation may result in severe repercussions. For the University policy on academic dishonesty, see:

<http://www.uark.edu:80/campus-resources/rlee/honesty.html>

- If you require special accommodations for test-taking, paper-writing, or anything else related to class performance, inform me of them by the first week of class (with proper documentation) so that the proper arrangements can be made.

- Inclement weather policy: Assume, until and unless you hear otherwise from me, that class will *not* be canceled due to inclement weather (even if the university's inclement weather policy is in effect). If class must be canceled due to the weather, or for any other reason, I will send out a class email as soon as possible. In the worst case scenario, I will simply have a notice posted in the classroom.

## VI. Schedule of Reading Assignments

Readings and assignments are due *by* the date on which they are listed. This schedule is subject to change.

T Aug 26:	No assignment
Th Aug 28:	Dennett, "Setting Off on the Right Foot" and "True Believers"
T Sept 2:	Dennett, "Three Kinds of Intentional Psychology"
Th Sept 4:	Dennett, "Making Sense of Ourselves"
T Sept 9:	Dennett, "Intentional Systems in Cognitive Ethology"
Th Sept 11:	Mele, Chapter 1
T Sept 16:	Mele, Chapter 2
Th Sept 18:	Mele, Chapter 3
T Sept 23:	Mele, Chapter 4
Th Sept 25:	Mele, Chapters 5 & 6
T Sept 30:	Hirstein, Chapter 1 <b>Shorter Paper Due</b>
Th Oct 2:	Hirstein, Chapters 3 & 4
T Oct 7:	Hirstein, Chapters 5 & 6
Th Oct 9:	Hirstein, Chapter 8
T Oct 14:	Hirstein, Chapters 9 & 10
Th Oct 16:	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
T Oct 21:	Davies and Coltheart, "Introduction: Pathologies of Belief" (Available online)
Th Oct 23:	Young, "Wondrous Strange: The Neuropsychology of Abnormal Beliefs" (Available online)
T Oct 28:	Breen, et al., "Towards an Understanding of Delusions of Misidentification" (Available online)
Th Oct 30:	Gerrans, "Refining the Explanation of Cotard's Delusion" (Available online)
T Nov 4:	Gold and Hohwy, "Rationality and Schizophrenic Delusion" (Available online)
Th Nov 6:	Currie, "Imagination, Delusion and Hallucinations" (Available online)

T Nov 11: Stephens and Graham, Chapters 1 & 2  
Th Nov 13: Stephens and Graham, Chapter 3

T Nov 18: Stephens and Graham, Chapters 4 & 5  
Th Nov 20: Stephens and Graham, Chapter 6

T Nov 25: Stephens and Graham, Chapter 7  
Th Nov 27: **Thanksgiving Break**

T Dec 2: Stephens and Graham, Chapter 8  
Th Dec 4: No assignment

T Dec 9: **Longer Paper Due**

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, Dec 17th; 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.; in our regular classroom