



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Perceptual Experience and Valence - 15902

Last update 24-02-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Philosophy

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Hilla Jacobson

Coordinator Email: hilla.jacobson@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Prof Hilla Jacobson

Course/Module description:

Consider the following experiences: a sharp headache, a gustatory experience of beer, a visual experience of desert landscape. The experience of pain involves an unpleasant feeling – hurtfulness. The phenomenal character of pains – the way it is like to undergo them – is "negative" (it involves "valence") and there is a sense in which pains are bad. Yet, what about gustatory and visual experiences? According to a recent hypothesis, the sensible world, with its colors, odors, tastes and shapes, is not given to us in an evaluatively neutral, inert manner; rather, our perceptual interactions with it are infused with valence. Thus, a subject can see (in the literal, visual sense of "seeing") something or someone in a positive or negative manner.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

to carry out independent research on valenced perception

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

In the first part of the course, we will focus on the case-study of pain. Among the topics to be addressed:

Pain as a perception

The sensory dimension of pain and the valenced dimension of pain

Pain and motivation

The normative aspect of pains

Theories of pain (Evaluativism, Imperativism, First-order Desire Theory and Second-order Desire Theory, Mere-Feel Theory)

In the second part of the course, we will generalize the discussion to experiences of other sorts. Among the topics to be discussed:

The notion of Intrinsically Valenced Perception

Valenced (/Emotional) Perception vs. Perceptual Emotion

The relations between the Sensory and Valenced Aspects of Perception

Different sense-modalities: Gustatory, Olfactory, Auditory, Visual
Theories of Valenced Perception
The Role of Valence in Perception
Perceptual Valence and Decision-Making

Required Reading:

- Aydede, M. (2019) "Pain." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <http://plato.stanford.edu/search/searcher.py?query=&q=pain>.
- Aydede, M. and Fulkerson, M. (2014). "Affect: representationalists' headache." *Philosophical Studies*, 170, pp. 175–198.
- Bain, D. 2013. "What Makes Pains Unpleasant?" *Philosophical Studies* 166(1), pp. 69-89.
- Bain, D. 2017a. "Why Take Painkillers?" *Noûs* 53(2): 462-490.
- Bain, D. 2017b. "Evaluativist Accounts of Pain's Unpleasantness." In Jennifer Corns (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Pain*. London: Routledge.
- Benbaji, H. (Manuscript). "Evaluativism and the Disunity of Bodily and Mental Pains."
- Corns, J. "Unpleasantness, motivational oomph, and painfulness." *Mind & Language* 29, no. 2 (2014): 238-254.
- Carruthers, P. 2018. "Valence and Value." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 97(3): 658-680.
- Carruthers, P. 2022. "On Valence: Imperative or Representation of Value?" *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.
- Cutter, B. and Tye, M. 2011. "Tracking Representationalism and the Painfulness of Pain." *Philosophical Issues* 21, pp. 90–109
- Cutter, B. and Tye, M. 2014. "Pains and Reasons: Why is it Rational to Kill the Messenger." *The Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol. 64, No. 256, pp. 423-433.
- Fulkerson, Matthew. 2020. "Emotional Perception." *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 98(1): 16-30.
- Jacobson, H. 2013. "Killing the Messenger: Representationalism and the Painfulness of Pain." *Philosophical Quarterly*, 63, pp. 509-519.
- Jacobson, H. 2017. "Not Only a Messenger: Towards an Attitudinal-Representational Theory of Pain." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.
- Jacobson, H. 2021. *The Role of Valence in Perception: An ARTistic Treatment*. *Philosophical Review*.
- Lebrecht, Sophie, Moshe Bar, Lisa F. Barrett, and Michael J. Tarr. 2012. "Micro-Valences: Perceiving Affective Valence in Everyday Objects." *Frontiers in Psychology* 3: 107.
- De Vignemont, F. 2021. "Fifty Shades of Affective Colouring of Perception." *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- Roberts, T. 2021. "Awful Noises: Evaluativism and the Affective Phenomenology of Unpleasant Auditory Experience." *Philosophical Studies*.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 25 %

Project work 75 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: