

## **Seminar Syllabus**

Integrated Studies 001: Decisions and Learning  
University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2018

This course is about Cognitive Neuroscience, Philosophy, and the underexplored borderlands between them. Working alongside you will be a team of three instructors:

### **Dr. Julio R. Tuma**

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Cohen Hall 435, 1:30–3:00 p.m. and by appointment  
*tuma@sas.upenn.edu*

### **Dr. Raphael Krut-Landau**

Office Hours: Fridays, Cohen Hall 175, 1:30–3:00 p.m. and by appointment  
*rkrut@sas.upenn.edu*

### **Dr. Judith Kaplan**

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Cohen Hall 175, 1:30–3:00 p.m. and by appointment  
*juka@sas.upenn.edu*

Each seminar meets on Friday for 50 minutes:

Seminar 301 meets from 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. with Dr. Tuma in Arch 110.

Seminar 302 meets from 11:00 to 11:50 a.m. with Dr. Tuma in Arch 110.

Seminar 303 meets from 11:00 to 11:50 a.m. with Dr. Krut-Landau in Cohen 392.

Seminar 304 meets from 12:00 to 12:50 p.m. with Dr. Krut-Landau in Cohen 392.

Seminar 305 meets from 12:00 to 12:50 p.m. with Dr. Kaplan in College Hall 311A.

Seminar 306 meets from 1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. with Dr. Kaplan in College Hall 311A.

## **Overview**

This course begins your intellectual journey in the Integrated Studies Program, as we delve into the fields of Philosophy and Cognitive Neuroscience. You will experience the benefits and challenges of living with your classmates, attending intellectually oriented extracurricular events, and participating in conversations with professors from a range of different fields.

The Friday Seminars are a cornerstone of ISP. In them, you will learn strategies for integrating—that is, thinking creatively using ideas from two areas of knowledge. You'll learn how to combine insights from philosophy and neuroscience, and how these fields meet: how they clash, and how they click together. Seminars also serve as the primary venue for expressing and discussing ideas with your peers. As you participate, we encourage you to work on honing the skills and building the confidence you will need to effectively communicate your ideas. We will

consider issues that arose in the Thursday Integrative Sessions, discuss the content of the two streams for the week, and prepare for seminar assignments. Throughout, we will explore how the interactions between disciplines open up new ways of understanding the world around us.

This is a discussion-based seminar; **attendance is mandatory and part of your seminar grade.** We expect you to engage in serious debate, deep thinking, and courteous dialogue.

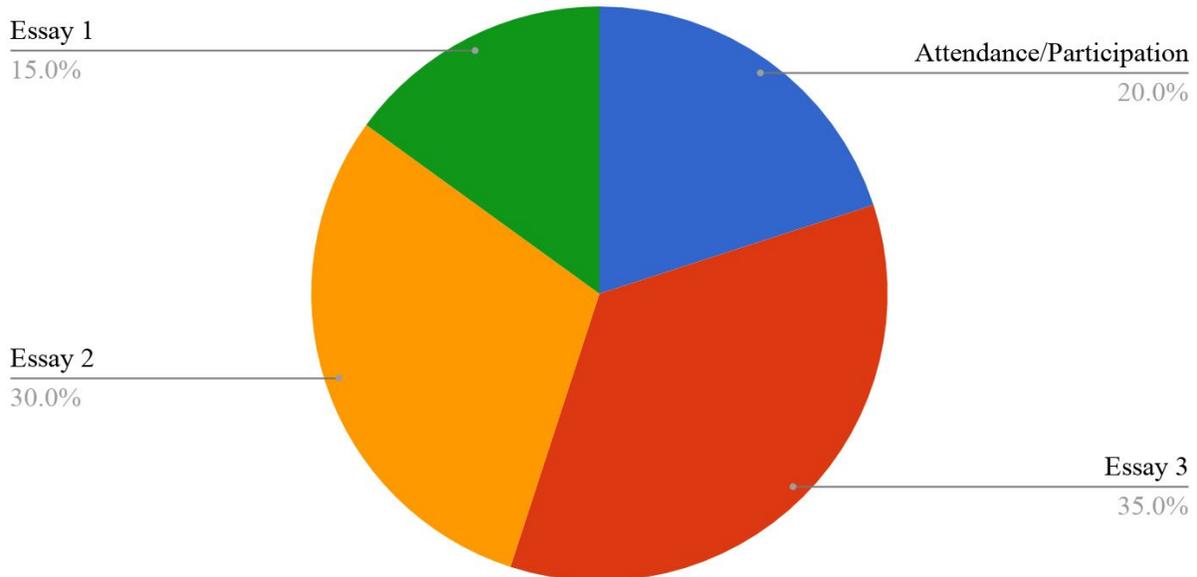
## Course Components

Attendance & Participation: 20%

Essay 1: 15%

Essay 2: 30%

Essay 3: 35%



## Attendance and Participation

In the Friday Seminars, we will discuss your insights, questions, comments, and concerns. We expect you respond to your classmates with the respect that you yourself expect to receive. Since attendance is mandatory, unexcused absences will affect this component of your grade. If you anticipate missing class for any reason, make sure to discuss it with your seminar instructor in advance and fill out a Course Absence Report.

If you intend to miss seminar for religious holidays that are not observed by the University, and wish to request alternative arrangements, you must inform your Seminar instructor of your anticipated absences by September 15. For the University's policy on religious holidays, see: <https://is.gd/upennholidays>.

In addition to Seminar attendance and participation, you may be asked to participate in online forums.

Finally, your participation grade includes your participation in the course more broadly: attending all lectures, participating in lectures via questions and comments, and coming to office hours as necessary (especially as you prepare your essays and work on essay improvement). We seek engagement across all components of the course.

## Essays

### Essay 1 (15%)

*Due September 21 at 5 p.m.*

A prompt for this short writing assignment will be distributed by September 14th. [250–300 words]

### Essay 2 (30%)

*Due October 19 at 5 p.m.*

Choose two articles to compare, one from each stream. (To prepare, ask yourself in each case: what was the topic? what was the main hypothesis or argument? what sources and methods were used? did you find them convincing—why or why not?) Having familiarized yourselves with these texts, now find an issue or problem that cuts across them. Do they complement each other or conflict? Why and in what ways? How does each text look different in the light of the other (as opposed to when it is read just *within* the stream for which it was assigned)? [1,200 words]

### Essay 3 (35%)

*Due December 10 at 5 p.m.*

Go forth and create your own essay topic! Look back over the semester to identify an issue addressed by philosophers and cognitive neuroscientists alike. Working with a handful of sources from each stream, identify approaches and/or arguments put forth by each discipline. Keep in mind that you do not need to find a “tidy” solution to the problem you have chosen to address. [1,700 words]

If all goes well, after completing these essays, you will be a stronger writer, more able to see through the lenses of both philosophy and cognitive neuroscience, and more appreciative of how each complements the other.

A successful integration essay is cogent and compelling. Writing one requires forethought. Your Seminar instructor encourages you to make an appointment to discuss your proposed argument and essay structure, and to come prepared to that appointment. Seminar instructors are not

obliged to read full drafts of papers, and may not be able to meet with students within 48 hours of a due date.

Note:

1. Please submit essays to Canvas. Use this format: double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, with 1.5-inch margins.
2. Include your name, your seminar, and the date inside your document.
3. Essays must be submitted in **.doc or .docx** format and named as follows: LastnameFirstinitial\_AssignmentDescription.doc. Example: SmithJ\_Essay1.doc
4. Please do not go over the word limit or risk a deduction for doing so.

NB: In every assignment, you *must* use specific quotations and arguments from the readings and the lectures to make your case. In doing so, you will be expected to adhere to the University of Pennsylvania's Code of Academic Integrity. In other words, cite your sources! You can read more about it here: <https://is.gd/upennintegrity>

## **Importantly**

- Please come say hello in office hours, so we can get to know each other better! Take advantage of this opportunity to let us know what special interests you bring to the course, and what challenges you anticipate.
- Your instructor will be very happy to address you by a different name or pronoun. Let him or her know if you'd like this.
- We may discuss hot-button issues: race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. You will expect professional courtesy and sensitivity from your instructors, and they will expect the same from you.
- Do you need accommodations for a disability? Please come chat to your instructor or send him or her an email. Official requests for accommodations need to be made during the first two weeks of the semester, except under unusual circumstances, and should be directed to Student Disabilities Services.