

## Color

Sommersemester 2012

12:15-13:45 P205

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In this course we will investigate philosophical issues surrounding color, a topic which has importance in all branches of theoretical philosophy. It is something with which we are most familiar, yet it remains puzzling. Here are some of the questions and themes we will be considering. On main theme will be the ontology of color; what is color? Is it a property of the objective world, or an illusion created by our nervous system? Or is it constituted in the relationship between an organism and its environment? How should we understand color constancy? Is spectral inversion possible? If so, what implications does it hold for philosophy of mind? Can color be understood in evolutionary terms? What is synesthesia, and what are its philosophical implications?

Readings will be available through Ilias.

**17 April**

**Introduction and some history**

**24 April**

**Color Science I**

Hardin, L. *Color for Philosophers*. Hackett, 1988.

pages 1-36

**8 Mai**

**Color Science II**

Hardin, 1988: pages 36-58

**15 Mai**

**The Ontology of Color**

Hardin, 1988: pages 59-109

**22 Mai**

**Color Realism**

Byrne, A. and Hilbert, D. "Color realism and color science" *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 26 (2003)  
3-64.

**29 Mai**

**True Colors**

Tye, M. "The Puzzle of True Blue" *Analysis* 2006

Cohen, J., Hardin, C. L., McLaughlin, B. "True Colors" *Analysis* 2006

Tye, M. "The Truth about True Blue" *Analysis* 2006

Byrne, A. and Hilbert, D. "Truest Blue" *Analysis* 2006

Tye, M. "True Blue Redux" *Analysis* 2006

## **5 Juni**

### **Color Constancy**

Cohen, J. "Color Constancy as Counterfactual" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 86 (2008) 61-92.

Thompson, B. "Colour Constancy and Russellian Representationalism" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 84 (2006) 75-94.

Madary, M. "Husserl on Perceptual Constancy" *European Journal of Philosophy* 20 (2012) 145-165.

## **12 Juni**

### **Evolution and Comparative Color Vision**

Thompson, E. *Colour Vision*. Routledge, 1995. Chapter 4  
Hardin 165-169.

## **19 Juni**

### **Ecological Color Vision**

Thompson, 1995: chapter 5

## **26 Juni**

### **The Inverted Spectrum**

Byrne, A. "Inverted Qualia" *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2010) section 2 URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/qualia-inverted/>

Hardin 134-142

## **3 Juli**

### **The Knowledge Argument (online class)**

Jackson, F. "Epiphenomenal Qualia" *Philosophical Quarterly* 32 (1982) 127-136.

Jackson, F. "What Mary Didn't Know" *Journal of Philosophy* 83 (1986) 291-295.

Nordby, K. "Vision in a Complete Achromat: A Personal Account" URL = <http://consc.net/misc/achromat.html>

Thompson, pages 263-286

## **10 Juli**

### **Synesthesia and the Explanatory Gap**

Ramachandran, V.S. and Hubbard, E.M. "Synaesthesia -- A Window Into Perception, Thought and Language" *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 8 (2001) 3-34.

optional readings:

Hurley, S. and Noë, A. "Neural Plasticity and Consciousness" *Biology and Philosophy* 18 (2003) 131-168.

Gray, J. "How are qualia coupled to functions?" *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 7 (2003) 192-194

Noë, A. and Hurley, S. "The deferential brain in action: Response to Jeffrey Gray" *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 7 (2003) 195-196.

## **17 Juli**

### **Color in Art**

no assigned readings