Philosophy of mind and design – spring 2015

In this letter you will find important general information about the course. Please read it carefully.

About the course

Questions that we’ll discuss and / or attempt to answer during the course are the following: How do we understand other people, and how do we understand ourselves? How can you, as designers, help people to do so? How do other people affect our behaviour? Is that good or bad? Can you as designers maximize the good effects and minimize the bad ones? How? How do we work together? How can you as designers facilitate this?

The course is called Philosophy of mind and design because theoretical enquiries regarding how we understand our own and others’ minds is called philosophy of mind, and this course investigates how this topic relates to design.

Background knowledge

Some of the material we cover in this course will be familiar to those of you who have studied EXTF55 Kognition, kommunikation och etik, but that course is not a prerequisite for understanding this one. During the first lecture we will try to summarize some of the things you are probably aware of when it comes to the human mind and design.

Those of you who feel uncertain can, for instance, browse through Donald Norman’s The Design of Everyday Things to get an accessible summary of some of the characteristics of the human mind. We promise that you will enjoy it!

Location

All lectures and exercises will take place in room B336 in the LUX-building on Helgonavägen 3.

http://goo.gl/VP84dp (opens Google Maps)

Schedule and ongoing information about the course

Apart from this document, you will find ongoing information about the course, links to course materials and any updates to the schedule on the following page:

http://www.lucs.lu.se/education/extf76/

Please make sure to check the course home page regularly. If we have to cancel a class we will email you as soon as possible. As you will see in the schedule we have one or two extra spots. If we have to cancel, these spots will be used instead.

About us

The course if given jointly by Petter Johansson and Philip Pärnamets.
Petter
I’m associate professor (docent) in Cognitive Science. My main research interest is self-knowledge in decision making: what do we know about ourselves and how do we come to acquire such knowledge? I also have a long standing interest in social psychology and how we influence, and are influenced, by our perception of others. To get in touch with me use email: petter.johansson (at) lucs.lu.se

Philip
I’m a PhD student (doktorand) in Cognitive Science. My main research focuses on how visual attention influences decisions. I am particularly interested in how we use eye gaze during moral decision making. I also work on how false feedback about our choices influences us, both as individuals and in group decision making. To get in touch with me, email me at: philip.parnamets (at) lucs.lu.se

Course credits
In order to get credits for the course you are required to do (and get a pass on) all course assignments. These can be done individually or in pairs – you choose your partner yourself.

The final grade will be given after a weeklong individual assignment that you write at home (individually!). We’ll discuss this more thoroughly at the introductory meeting.

For a final grade, all assignments and the home exam must be completed with a pass.

Schedule
An up-to date schedule is available on the course website.

Course literature
Course literature (articles) will be made available together with assignments as the course progresses.

We look forward to meeting you!

Petter & Philip