

PHI 4938: Seminar for Majors (Topic: Othered Minds)  
Florida State University

### Course Description

This course offers the opportunity to explore philosophical questions related to othered minds. 'Othered' minds are those that historically have been regarded as flatly alien and inferior, the legacy of which is a contemporary landscape of interdisciplinary work wrestling with a host of provocative and difficult issues related to our conceptions of the minds of women, persons of color, children, neurodivergent persons, and non-human animals.

To offer more detail regarding the specific sections into which I have divided this course –

- Minds & Sex will explore questions like: Do the minds of women and men differ? Are such claims a form of neurosexism? In what ways might neurosexism manifest?
- Minds & Race will explore questions like: What are we to make of arguments that suggest persons of color lack cognitive skills that white persons have or possess cognitive skills that white persons do not? Are such claims a form of racism? How does racism affect the mental health of members of ethnic minorities?
- Child Minds will explore questions like: To what extent are children autonomous – and relatedly, to what extent is paternalism justified? What should we say about their moral development, motivation, and responsibility?
- Neurodivergent Minds will explore questions like: Should we adopt a model of 'mental illness' as a disease of the mind, or is there some better way to characterize neurodivergent minds? What does society owe neurodivergent persons? What is the phenomenology of depression like?
- Animal Minds will explore questions like: Is human cognition somehow importantly different from that of non-human animals? Can other animals appreciate normativity, morality, and justice?