

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2018-19**

Philosophy 2400-001: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind

Fall Term 2018	Instructor: Chris Viger
W 10:30-11:30 F 10:30-12:30	STVH 4149
Classroom: WL 258	Fall Office Hours W 11:30-1:30
Instructor: Chang Liu	519-661-2111 x 85755
STVH 3153	cviger@uwo.ca
cliu486@uwo.ca	

DESCRIPTION

The course surveys historical and contemporary views about the relationship between the mind and body and the place of mental properties in the natural world. The readings are from primary sources with accompanying commentary. Topics include metaphysical questions about the nature of the world (materialism, idealism, or dualism), materialist theories of mind (behaviorism, identity theory, functionalism), and questions about the possibility of artificial intelligence, the special nature of consciousness, what mental states are, how they get their meaning, and how they cause behavior.

TEXTS

A Historical Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind, 2nd Edition, Peter Morton. Broadview (2010).

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop critical reading and writing skills.
2. Develop oral presentation skills through class discussions.
3. Understand the historical development of the mind-body problem.
4. Understand contemporary views about the mind-body problem.
5. Understand specific problems associated with each view about the nature of the mind.

REQUIREMENTS

Term paper 1	25%
Term paper 2	35%
Final Exam	40%

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Reading List Fall 2018

All readings are from the text, *A Historical Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind*

Sept. 11 Intro lesson, pp. xi-xvii

Week 1

14 Plato, pp. 3-19

16 Plato, pp. 19-26

18 Aristotle, pp. 27-44

Week 2

21 The Scientific Revolution, pp. 45-66

23 Descartes (intro), pp.67-78

25 Descartes (skepticism) pp. 79-94

Week 3

28 Descartes (Dualism), pp. 95-107

30pp. 108-124

Oct. 2 Materialism and Idealism, pp.125-136, Hobbes, pp. 137-141

Week 4

5 Berkeley, pp. 142-150

7 Behaviorism, pp. 153-176, Skinner, pp. 177-180

9 Chomsky, pp. 177-195

Week 5

14 Ryle & Wittgenstein, pp. 196-212

16 Identity Theory, pp. 213-231, Place, pp. 232-237

Week 6

19 Smart, pp. 238-247

21 Kripke, pp. 248- 256

23 Functionalism, pp. 257-279, Armstrong, pp. 280-287

Week 7

26 Fodor, pp. 288-299

28 Block, pp. 300-308 **Essay 1 Due**

Week 8

Nov. 2 Artificial Intelligence, pp. 311-329

4 Turing, pp. 330-346

6 Searle, pp. 347-361

Week 9

9 Boden, pp. 362-374

11 Consciousness, pp. 375-403, Nagel 404-412

13 Jackson, pp. 413-420

Week 10

16 Dennett, pp. 421-445

18 Chalmers, pp. 446-464

20 Hardcastle, pp. 465-474

Week 11

23 Mental Causation, pp. 625-640

25 Davidson, pp. 641-654

27 Kim, pp. 654-669

Week 12

30 Propositional Attitudes, pp. 475-498, Fodor, pp. 499-516

Dec. 2 Churchland, pp. 517-531

4 Dennett, pp. 532-548

Week 13

7 Mental Content, pp. 549-560, Dretske, pp. 561-574

9 Millikan, pp. 575-587 **Essay 2 Due**

Assignments

Essay 1

Value: 25% of the final course grade

Due: Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Late Penalty: 5% per day including weekends to a maximum penalty of 50%.

Word Limit: 1000-1250

Topic 1: Argue for one of dualism, idealism, or materialism. Respond to one objection to the view you support. Refer to at least two of the readings in the course.

OR

Topic 2: Argue for one of behaviorism, identity theory, or functionalism. Respond to one objection to the view you support. Refer to at least two of the readings in the course.

Essay 2

Value: 35% of the final course grade

Due: Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Late Penalty: No papers can be accepted after the last of classes, so late submissions will result in a grade of 0.

Word Limit: 1500-1750

Topic 1: Discuss whether the mind can be naturalized in light of the problems associated with either consciousness or mental causation. Respond to one objection to the view you support. Refer to at least two of the readings in the course.

OR

Topic 2: Are propositional attitudes and qualia real? Respond to one objection to the view you support. Refer to at least two of the readings in the course.

OR

Topic 3: Can we build an intelligent machine? How would we know? Respond to one objection to the view you support. Refer to at least two of the readings in the course.