

PHIL 1301B: Mind, World and Knowledge

Professor: Mark Young

Winter 2011

Email: mayoung@connect.carleton.ca

Class time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:35 – 9:55

Office hours: Wednesday 10:15-11:15

Class Location: 301 AT

Office Location: 329B Paterson Hall

Course Description: In this course we will consider some basic issues in epistemology and metaphysics. Issues to be discussed include: the nature of knowledge (epistemology), scepticism, whether humans have innate ideas or are blank slates, whether humans have a dual nature of mind and body, or are just material objects, and whether the universe is made up of physical objects or just mind.

Teaching Methodology: The professor will guide the students through the philosophical issues dealt with in the course. The professor will advocate no particular tradition, or philosophical position. Students will have the opportunity and the freedom to develop their own position in reaction to the material considered. The professor will alternate between learning guide and devil's advocate for the purpose of challenging students to develop their own positions critically. Since philosophy is a process that occurs not only between professor and student, but also between student and student, it is important to remember that *showing respect for the views of others is a part of the learning process*. To disagree with the views of others is fine, and even encouraged, but it must be done through arguments, not personal attacks, and with the professionalism appropriate to a scholarly discussion. Each class will focus on a set of assigned readings, which students are expected to read on their own. Discussion and elaboration of these readings will be the goal of each class.

Course Requirements: Students will be evaluated based on the completion of three assignments. These assignments will include one term exam, a term paper and a final exam. The term exam and paper will be each worth 30% of the total mark, while the final exam will be worth 40% of the total mark. The final exam will not be cumulative, such that it will only cover material considered after the first exam.

Important Dates and Assignments:

16 February 2011	First Exam	Worth 30%
16 March 2011	Term Paper	Worth 30%
TBA	Final Exam	Worth 40%

Course Text: A course-package has been designed specifically for this course, and can be obtained from the campus book store.

Academic Policies: A late penalty of 3 marks per day, on a scale of 100, will apply to all late assignments, but will be waived for legitimate reasons if supporting documentation is provided. If an assignment is late, and not handed-in during class time, arrangements must be made with the professor to hand-in the assignment. Students are required to keep a personal copy of all work submitted. Should an assignment go missing, and the student is unable to produce a copy, the assignment will be considered not submitted. Likewise, if a grade is not recorded for an assignment the onus is on the student to demonstrate that the assignment was completed and graded. No changes can be made to the class schedule, but exceptions can be made for legitimate reasons, such as an illness, if supporting documentation is provided.

Topics and Readings

Section One: Knowledge

1. Epistemology (Theories of Knowledge)

Readings: **Plato**, (2001), “Theaetatus,” pp.201-208.
Elliot Sober, (2001), “Descartes’s Foundationalism,” pp.158-162.
René Descartes, (1999), “Meditations on First Philosophy,” pp.116-127.
Noah Lemos (2007), “The coherence theory of justification,” pp.66-84.
Edmund L. Gettier, (1963), “Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?”
pp.121-123.
Alvin I. Goldman, (1978), “A Causal Theory of Knowing,” pp.67-86.

2. Scepticism

Readings: **Peter Unger**, (1994), “A Defence of Scepticism,” pp.30-35.
Sextus Empiricus, (2000), *Outlines of Scepticism*, pp.2-11 of 248.
Ludwig Wittgenstein, (1969), *On Certainty*, pp.9e, 18e, 22e, 27e, 30e,
39e, 44e, 48e, 69e.
Mark Young (2004), “Did Wittgenstein Refute the Sceptic?” pp.99-112.

Section Two: Mind

3. Innate Ideas

Readings: **René Descartes**, (2006), “Notes Directed Against a Certain Program,”
pp.701-703.
John Locke, (1998), “Of Ideas,” pp.88-91.
John Locke, (2006), “An Essay Concerning Human Understanding,”
pp.705-715.
Noam Chomsky, (2006), “Rules and Representations,” pp.771-779.

4. Mind and Body

Readings: **C. E. M. Joad**, (1994), “The Mind as Distinct from the Body,” pp.166-
171.
William S. Robinson, (1994), “Why I am a Dualist,” pp.171-179.
Richard Taylor, (1994), “The Case for Materialism,” pp.179-189.

Section Three: World

5. Nature of the World (Universe)

Readings: **T. L. S. Sprigge**, (2002), “Idealism,” pp.219-241.
C. H. Whiteley, (1994), “Physical Objects as Not Reducible to
Perceptions,” pp.98-105.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper
- must include the following in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:

student name
student number
course number and section
instructor's name

- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by 4:15 on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Referrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, page 56 or <http://www.carleton.ca/cu0809uc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>

Academic Accommodation:

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Merton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC every term to have a Letter of Accommodation sent to the Instructor by their Coordinator. In addition, students are expected to confirm their need for accommodation with the Instructor no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm. If you require accommodations only for formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, you must request accommodations by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to

be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website www.carleton.ca/equity/holy_days/ for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies.

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Important Dates:

Sept. 9	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 22	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall term and two-term courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 8	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 11	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 22	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 6	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Dec. 6	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Jan. 3	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 14	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 21	Family Day – university closed
Feb. 21-25	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 23	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 5	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Apr. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 7-21	Final Examinations.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Paul Merton Centre:	500 University Centre www.carleton.ca/PMC 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library www.carleton.ca/wts 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	www.library.carleton.ca 520-2735