

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

PHIL 2501 – Winter 2015

Lectures:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00-5:30
Venue:	<i>TBA</i>
Instructor:	Dr. Nils-Frederic Wagner
Office:	329B Paterson Hall (Department of Philosophy)
Email:	nilsfrederic.wagner@carleton.ca
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 or by appointment
Course Website:	Through registration, you will get access to the cuLearn pages for this course. This system will be used for access to announcements and grades, as well as for essay submissions.

Course Description

This course is meant to introduce you to some of the most fundamental aspects of Philosophy of Mind, mostly through the work of major contemporary philosophers. We will be reading about and discussing questions such as: What is the relation between mind and body? What is consciousness, how is it related to our brain and body, and, for that matter, how does it come about? How can it be understood that, more often than not, the subjective experience of many mental states varies between different persons? What is a person, and what makes someone persist as the same person over time?

Course Materials

All the readings will be freely available on Ares, the digital reserve system. You can access it through this link: <https://libares01.carleton.ca/>.

Course Requirements

You are required to attend class. Discussion is an important part of the coursework and you will need to be there to participate. You are also expected to do all of the assigned readings. Written requirements will involve one in-class midterm exam (20%), consisting mainly of short identification questions and short essay questions; one 4-5 page (1100-1500 words) take-home essay (30%); and one 9-10 page (2500-3000 words) final take-home essay (50%). The essays must be formatted with a commonly used 12pt serif font (such as Times New Roman), double-spaced with 1 inch margins on all sides. Unless otherwise informed, you should submit all your essays through the cuLearn course website. Late essay submissions will be penalized one letter step per day. That is, for example, if an A paper is handed in a day late, it will receive an A-; if it is handed in two days late, it will receive a B+ and so forth. Late essays will be accepted without penalty only if there is legitimate reason. You must do all of the written assignments and attend class regularly to get a passing grade. The grade percentages listed above apply only to those who do all of the work. Announcements will be made, assignments given, and materials presented in class. You are responsible to keep track of any material missed due to absence.

Class Schedule, Topics and Readings

The class is divided, roughly, into three thematic priorities; however, all parts are closely related and thus overlap to some extent. You will get the most out of the lectures if you have the assigned readings done before the corresponding class takes place. Moreover, by building on familiarity with the readings, some of the material presented in class will go beyond what is covered in the readings.

Jan 6, Tue Organizational Matters and Introduction: What is Philosophy of Mind?

The Mind/Body Problem

Jan 8, Thu *Substance Dualism* – René Descartes (1641): Meditations on First Philosophy (excerpt): Meditation I & II.
Jan 13, Tue *Eliminative Materialism* – Paul Churchland (1981): Eliminative Materialism and Propositional Attitudes.
Jan 15, Thu *Behaviorism* – Hilary Putnam (1980): Brains and Behavior.
Jan 20, Tue *Computationalism* – Alan Turing (1950): Computing Machinery and Intelligence.
Jan 22, Thu *Functionalism* – Hilary Putnam (1980): The Nature of Mental States.
Jan 27, Tue *Emergentism* – John Searle (2007): Biological Naturalism.
Jan 29, Thu *Folk Psychology* – Stephen Stich and Shaun Nichols (2003): Folk Psychology.
Feb 3, Tue *Mind, Brain and Body* – Marya Schechtman (1997): The Brain/Body Problem.

Feb 5, Thu Midterm Exam

Consciousness and Qualitative Experience

Feb 10, Tue *Chinese Room* – John Searle (1980): Minds, Brains and Programs.
Feb 12, Thu *Qualia* – Thomas Nagel (1974): What is it like to be a Bat?

Feb 16-20 Winter Break, no classes

Feb 24, Tue *Explanatory Gap* – Joseph Levine (1983): Materialism and Qualia: The Explanatory Gap.
Feb 26, Thu *Knowledge Argument* – Frank Jackson (1982): Epiphenomenal Qualia; Frank Jackson (1986): What Mary Didn't Know.
Mar 3, Tue *Hard Problem* – David Chalmers (1995): Facing up to the Problem of Consciousness.
Mar 5, Thu *Harder Problem* – Ned Block (2002): The Harder Problem of Consciousness.
Mar 10, Tue *Ghosts and Zombies* – Philip Goff (2010): Ghosts and Sparse Properties: Why Physicalists Have More to Fear from Ghosts than Zombies.
Essay assigned

Personhood and Personal Identity

- Mar 12, Thu *Personhood* – Harry Frankfurt (1971): Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person.
- Mar 17, Tue *Bodily Account* – Bernard Williams (1970): The Self and the Future.
- Mar 19, Thu *Animalism* – Eric Olson (1997): Was I Ever a Fetus?
- Mar 24, Tue *Psychological Account* – Derek Parfit (1984): Reasons and Persons (excerpt): Chapter 10: What We Believe Ourselves to Be; Chapter 11: How We Are not What We Believe; Chapter 12: Why Our Identity is not What Matters.
- Mar 25, Wed Essay due
- Mar 26, Thu *Indeterminacy of Identity* – Anthony Brueckner (1993): Parfit on What Matters in Survival.
- Mar 31, Tue *Practical Account* – Marya Schechtman (2010): Personhood and the Practical.
- Apr 2, Thu *Agency and Narrativity* – Michael Bratman (2000): Reflection, Planning, and Temporally Extended Agency; Dieter Teichert (2004): Narrative, Identity and the Self.
- Apr 7, Tue Final Discussion; Final Take-Home Essay assigned, requirements discussed.
- Apr 23, Thu Final Take-Home Essay due

Bibliography

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- Bratman, M. (2000). Reflection, Planning, and Temporally Extended Agency. *Philosophical Review*, 109(1), 35-61.
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- Churchland, P. (1981). Eliminative Materialism and Propositional Attitudes. *Journal of Philosophy*, 78(2), 67-90.
- Descartes, R. (1641/2008). *Meditations on First Philosophy* (pp. 1-25), trans. Michael Moriarty. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Frankfurt, H. (1971). Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person. *Journal of Philosophy*, 68(1), 5-20.
- Goff, P. (2010). Ghosts and Sparse Properties: Why Physicalists Have More to Fear from Ghosts than Zombies. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 81(1), 119-139.
- Jackson, F. (1982). Epiphenomenal Qualia. *Philosophical Quarterly*, 32(127), 127-136.
- Jackson, F. (1986). What Mary Didn't Know. *Journal of Philosophy*, 83(5), 291-295.
- Levine, J. (1983). Materialism and Qualia: The Explanatory Gap. *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 64, 354-361.
- Nagel, T. (1974). What is it like to be a Bat? *Philosophical Review*, 83(4), 435-450.

- Olson, E. (1997). Was I Ever a Fetus? *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 57(1), 95-110.
- Parfit, D. (1984). *Reasons and Persons* (pp. 199-280). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Putnam, H. (1980). Brains and Behavior. In Ned Block (Ed.). *Readings in Philosophy of Psychology*, Volume One (pp. 24-37). Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.
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- Schechtman, M. (2010). Personhood and the Practical. *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*, 31(4), 271-283.
- Schechtman, M. (1997). The Brain/Body Problem. *Philosophical Psychology*, 10(2), 149-164.
- Searle, J. (1980). Minds, Brains and Programs. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 3(3), 417-424.
- Searle, J. (2007). Biological Naturalism. In Max Velmans and Susan Schneider (Eds.). *The Blackwell Companion to Consciousness* (pp. 325-335). Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Stich, S. & Nichols, S. (2003). Folk Psychology. In Stephen Stich and Ted Warfield (Eds.). *The Blackwell Guide to Philosophy of Mind* (pp. 235-255). Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
- Teichert, D. (2004). Narrative, Identity and the Self. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 11(10), 175-191.
- Turing, A. (1950). Computing Machinery and Intelligence. *Mind*, 59(236), 433-460.
- Williams, B. (1970). The Self and the Future. *Philosophical Review*, 79(2), 161-180.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2014-15)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - 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 – see dates in next column.
- 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.

Deferrals 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, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam

requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 4	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 27-31	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 10-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 16	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. 16-20	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 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
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735