

PERSONAL IDENTITY & THE SELF

PHIL2540, Fall 2013

Lectures Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:05-5:25
Instructor Heidi Lene Maibom
 Department of Philosophy
 Paterson Hall 3A39
 613 - 520 3825
 heidi_maibom@carleton.ca
Office hours Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 or by appointment

Course Materials

All the materials for this course are available freely online or through the library.

John Locke and David Hume are both freely available on Project Gutenberg (http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page) (PG).

‘Electronic resource’ signifies that the book in question is accessible online through the library website.

‘Library Reserves’ signifies that the chapter or book is available on library reserve.

Where only the book title is mentioned, the book is on reserve in the library.

Journals are also accessible online through the library website.

Course Description

What makes the person the same person over time? Is it their mind, their body, their consciousness? Can several persons inhabit the same human body? Can one person become another person during their lifetime? Is there a self at all? Questions such as these, as well as possible answers to them, will be at the core of this course. We will explore them through readings, movies, and discussions.

Course requirements

One midterm exam (30%), consisting mainly of multiple choice questions and short questions-answers, one final take-home exam (50%), which will be in essay form (6-8 pages), and one essay (2-3 pages) (20%). Announcements will be made, assignments given, and materials presented in class, and it is your responsibility to keep track of this.

Essay Submission

You should submit all your essays, including your take-home exam on the course website unless otherwise informed. Your graded essays will be returned to you via that system also, and your grade uploaded to the system. The midterm exam will be picked up from you in class.

Class Schedule

Sep 5 Introduction.
Sep 10 John Locke: Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Chap. XXVII: Of Identity and Diversity (PG).
Sep 12 David Hume: Treatise of Human Nature, Book I, Part IV, Section 6 (PG).

- Sep 17 Bernard Williams: 'The Self and the Future', *The Philosophical Review*, 79, 161-80 (1970).
- Sep 19 Derek Parfit: *Reasons and Persons*, Chap. 10 (Electronic Resource)
- Sep 24 David Lewis: *Philosophical Papers*, Vol. I: 'Survival and Identity' (Electronic Resource).
- Sep 26 Catch up.
- Oct 1 Derek Parfit: *Reasons and Persons*, Chap. 11 (Electronic Resource).
- Oct 3 Derek Parfit: *Reasons and Persons*, Chap. 12 (Electronic Resource); Sperry: 'Hemisphere Deconnection and Unity in Conscious Awareness', *American Psychologist*, 23 (1968).
- Oct 8 Parfit & Sperry continued. [Guest lecture]
- Oct 10 Midterm Exam**
- Oct 15 Derek Parfit: *Reasons and Persons*, Chap. 13 (Electronic Resource)
- Oct 17 Parfit finished
- Oct 22 Eric Olson: *The Human Animal*, Chap. 6 (Electronic Resource)
- Oct 24 Olson continued.

*** Fall Break ***

- Nov 5 Selections from *Questions of King Milinda* (see WebCT for link to Sacred Texts of the East); Miri Albahari: 'Nirvana and ownerless consciousness', in: M. Siderits, E. Thompson, and D. Zahavi: *Self, No Self?* (Library Reserve)
- Nov 7 Jonardon Ganeri: 'Subjectivity, Selfhood and the Use of the Word "I"', in: M. Siderits, E. Thompson, and D. Zahavi: *Self, No Self?* (Library Reserve) **Essay assigned**
- Nov 12 David Shoemaker: *Personal Identity and Ethics*, Chapter 6
- Nov 14 David Shoemaker: *Personal Identity and Ethics*, Chapter 7
- Nov 19 Julian Jaynes: 'Consciousness and the Voices of the Mind', *Canadian Psychology*, 27, 128-48 (1986).
- Nov 21 Daniel Dennett: 'Julian Jaynes' Software Archeology' & Jonathan Miller: 'Primitive Thoughts', *Canadian Psychology*, 27, 149-57 (1986).
- Nov 22 Essay Due, Midnight**
- Nov 26 George Graham & Lynn Stephens: 'Mind and Mine', in: G. Graham & G. L. Stephens (eds.) *Philosophical Psychopathology* (Electronic Resource)
- Nov 28 Daniel Dennett & Nicholas Humphrey: *Speaking for Ourselves: An Assessment of Multiple Personality Disorder*. In: D. C. Dennett: *Brainchildren* (Electronic Resource)
- Dec 3 Owen Flanagan: 'Multiple Identity, Character Transformation, and Self-Reclamation', in: G. Graham & G. L. Stephens (eds.) *Philosophical Psychopathology* (Electronic Resource)
- Dec 5 Final discussion; **Take home exam assigned (final paper)**

Take-Home Exam due 22nd December, Midnight.

The class schedule is provisional. Where there will be no substantial changes to the amount of material covered, I reserve the right to change things around or exchange some readings for others, should the need arise.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2013-14)

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 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 – 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://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

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 me 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 me 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 me 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 me 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. 5	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 18	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. 11	University Day – no undergraduate classes.
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 28 – Nov. 1	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	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. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 11-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	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. 17-21	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 25	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. 11-26	Final Examinations. Exams will not be held Apr. 18-20.
Apr. 18	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 26	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