

FYSM 1208 A Looking at Philosophy
Fall/Winter 2016/17
Syllabus

Instructor Information

Course instructor: Nalini E. Ramlakhan

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30PM-2:30PM, Thursdays
11:30AM-12:30PM

Course Information

Fall/Winter 2016/17, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:05PM-2:25PM

Course title: Looking at Philosophy

Course number: 1208 A

Room: TBA

Department: Philosophy

Precludes additional credit for PHIL 1100.

Prerequisite(s): normally restricted to students entering the first year of a B.A., B.Cog.Sc. or B.G.In.S. program.

Course Website:

CULearn will be used for access to the course syllabus, grades, announcements, and discussion boards. It is recommended that students regularly check CULearn for course updates and other information.

Course Description

An examination of the following: What is the nature of the mind and its contents? What is the nature of reality? What is personal identity? Does God exist? Are values relative? What are our moral responsibilities? Do we have free will?

Dos and Don'ts

Do complete the readings, come to class, and complete your assignments on time. Class attendance is important if you want to succeed in this course. If you are having difficulties, including difficulties completing an assignment on time, talk to me during my office hours. Do not be disruptive during class.

Course Text

Made available on *Ares*

Blackmore, Susan. *Consciousness* (2nd edition). New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Searle, John. *Mind: A Brief Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Shoemaker, David. *Personal Identity and Ethics: A Brief Introduction*. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2009.

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to change the readings or topics assigned. Changes will not add substantial workload.

Evaluation

RESPONSE PAPER

Value: 5%

Date: October 4th, 2016

Description: A paper in response to a particular issue being discussed in class. Topics will be given in class, but students are welcome to write on a topic not given in class. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Papers are to be submitted in class, on or before the due date. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font Times New Roman, and must not exceed three pages. Papers should be 1-3 pages in length. Email submissions not accepted.

MIDTERM TEST

Value: 15%

Date: November 24th, 2016

Description: This test will be in multiple choice, true/false, and short and long answer format. Students will be given the entire class time to complete the test.

PRESENTATION

Value: 10%

Date: Dates will be assigned in class depending on the topic that the student chooses.

Description: Each student will give a 7-10 minute presentation on a specific topic. This assignment will give each student the opportunity to further explore a topic they are interested in. Students are encouraged to discuss presentation ideas with the instructor. Further instructions and rubric will be discussed in class (see syllabus).

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Value: 30% (15% each term)

Description: Attendance and participation are important if you want to succeed in this course. This evaluation will be based on the student's attendance and overall participation throughout the course. Participation will take the form of class discussions and group work. At the end of each term, students will receive a report of their participation and class attendance that can be further discussed with the instructor.

ESSAY

Value: 20%

Date: March 9th, 2017

Description: Topics will be given in class on December 6th, but students are welcome to write on a topic not given in class. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Papers are to be submitted in class, on or before the due date. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font Times New Roman, and must not exceed 8 pages. Papers should be 6-8 pages in length. Students will be given sufficient class time to discuss ideas with peers and the instructor, and will also be given sufficient class time to work on drafts. Students may write on a topic that they have

presented on, giving students the opportunity to build off of their previous work. Email submissions will not be accepted.

Extensions granted under certain circumstances. Requests for extensions must be discussed with the course instructor no later than March 1st. A request does not guarantee an extension.

FINAL EXAM

Value: 20%

Date: TBA

Description: This exam will be in multiple choice, true/false, and short and long answer format. This exam will be held during the final examination period.

Any deferrals must be submitted to the registrar's office (see policies below).

NOTES

1. The standard time for returning graded tests, assignments, etc. is two weeks from the date of the test or assignment due date. If additional time is needed for grading, announcements will be made in class or posted on the CULearn website.
2. If a disagreement over a grade occurs, the student can appeal the grade to the instructor.
3. It is the student's responsibility to catch up with any missed lecture material. Students should see the instructor if they need to catch up with missed material.
4. A make-up test/presentation will be provided only upon presentation of verifiable documentation (e.g., a doctor's note). A failure to provide one will result in a zero. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if a test or assignment is missed. Students must contact the instructor within 72 hours of a missed test or assignment to schedule a make-up. This is the student's responsibility. Arrangements must be made directly with the instructor. There are no exceptions.
5. Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
September 8 th	Syllabus overview General introduction	Blackmore, Introduction Searle, Introduction
September 13 th and 15 th	The problem of consciousness Mind/body interaction	Blackmore, Section 1, Chapters 1-3 Searle, Introduction, Chapter 1
September 20 th	The problem of consciousness Mind/body interaction	Blackmore, Section 1, Chapters 1-3 Searle, Introduction, Chapter 1 <i>Movie: Matrix</i>
September 22 nd	The problem of consciousness Mind/body interaction Skepticism *Response paper assignment handed out*	Blackmore, Section 1, Chapters 1-3 Searle, Introduction, Chapters 2-3 <i>Movie: Matrix</i>
September 27 th	The problem of consciousness Mind/body interaction Skepticism *Presentation guidelines discussed*	Blackmore, Section 1, Chapters 1-3 Searle, Introduction, Chapters 2-3 Nagel (1974), "What is it like to be a bat?"
September 29 th	The grand illusion and the Cartesian theater	Blackmore, Section 2, Chapters 4-6
October 4 th	The grand illusion and the Cartesian theater *Response papers due*	Blackmore, Section 2, Chapters 4-6 Searle, Chapter 4
October 6 th and 11 th	The grand illusion and the Cartesian theater	Blackmore, Section 2, Chapters 4-6 Searle, Chapter 4
October 13 th	Consciousness and the self	Blackmore, Section 3, Chapters 7-9 Searle, Chapter 11 Shoemaker, Introduction

October 18 th and 20 th	Consciousness and the self: Locke	Blackmore, Section 3, Chapters 7-9 Locke, "Of identity and diversity" <i>accessed on Google Scholar</i> Shoemaker, Chapters 1 and 2
November 1 st	Consciousness and the self: Hume	Blackmore, Section 3, Chapters 7-9 Hume, "Of personal identity" http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/pi.htm
November 3 rd and 8 th	Consciousness and the self: Alternative approaches	Shoemaker, Chapter 3 Parfit, <i>Reasons and Persons</i> , Chapters 11 and 15, electronic resource accessed on Carleton.ca/library
November 10 th and 15 th	Buddhist conceptions of self Life and meaning	Siderits, Chapters 2 and 3 Camus, "The myth of Sisyphus" <i>accessed on Google Scholar</i>
November 17 th and 22 nd	Consciousness and the self The self and morality	Siderits, Chapter 4 Shoemaker, TBA
November 24 th	Midterm exam	No readings
November 29 th and Dec 1 st	Consciousness and the self The self and morality	Shoemaker, TBA
December 6 th	Tutorial on essay writing *Essay topics handed out*	No readings
December 8 th	Tutorial on essay writing	No readings

January 5 th	Consciousness and the brain	Blackmore, Section 4, Chapters 10-12 Searle, Chapter 5
January 10 th and 12 th	Evolution and consciousness Animal minds Moral responsibility	Blackmore, Section 5, Chapters 13-15
January 17 th	Evolution and consciousness Animal mind Moral responsibility	Blackmore, Section 5, Chapters 13-15
January 19 th	Evolution and consciousness Animal minds Moral responsibility	Blackmore, Section 5, Chapters 13-15 Harman, "The moral significance of animal pain and animal death" <i>accessed on Google Scholar or through Carleton's Library Portal</i> Dawkins, "The scientific basis for assessing suffering in animals" <i>accessed through Carleton's Library Portal</i>
January 24 th	Moral responsibility	Sartre on freedom and responsibility, TBA, <i>accessed on Google Scholar</i> Nietzsche, excerpt from <i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> accessed on Google Scholar
January 26 th	Artificial intelligence	Blackmore, Section 6, Chapters 16-18
January 31 st and Feb 2 nd	Artificial intelligence	Blackmore, Section 6, Chapters 16-18
Feb 7 th	Artificial intelligence	Blackmore, Section 6, Chapters 16-18 Heidegger, "The question concerning technology" <i>accessed on Google Scholar</i>
February 9 th	Writing tutorial	No Readings
February 14 th and 16 th	Unconscious processing	Blackmore, Section 7, Chapters 19-21
February 28 th	Unconscious processing	Blackmore, Section 7, Chapters 19-21
March 2 nd and 7 th	Unconscious processing and free will	Blackmore, Section 7, Chapters 19-21 Searle, Chapter 9
March 9 th	Altered states of consciousness *Essays due*	Blackmore, Section 8, Chapters 22-24

March 14 th and 16 th	Altered states of consciousness	Blackmore, Section 8, Chapters 22-24
March 21 st and 23 rd	Altered states of consciousness	Blackmore, Section 8, Chapters 22-24
March 28 th and 30 th	First-person approaches to consciousness	Blackmore, Section 9, Chapters 25-27
April 4 th and 6 th	First-person approaches to consciousness Review for exam	Blackmore, Section 9, Chapters 25-27

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2016-17)

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
- 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. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	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. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	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. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	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. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	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. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	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