

PHIL1301B: MIND, WORLD AND KNOWLEDGE

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
WINTER 2017

DAYS & TIME: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4-5:30pm
LOCATION: Azreili Theatre, Room 101
INSTRUCTOR: Karina Vold
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 2-3pm in Paterson Hall, 329B
EMAIL: karina.vold@carleton.ca

TOPIC: This course provides an introduction to philosophical issues concerning mind, language, knowledge and the world. We will take a look at the following questions:

- What is the nature of philosophical inquiry?
- What makes a good argument?
- Can you know if there is a world outside of your mind and, if so, how?
- Is the mind able to causally influence the body and, if so, how?
- Is the mind a physical thing?
- Is artificial intelligence possible?
- Where is the mind? Where are you?
- Who are you? Do you have an identity that exists over time?
- What is the nature of knowledge and how do we acquire it?
- What do we know when we know a language?

By the end of the course, students will have knowledge of the major figures and positions on these different philosophical questions.

CREDIT AND RESTRICTIONS: 0.5 credit. Precludes additional credit for PHIL 1006 or PHIL 1501.

EVALUATION:

30% First Paper: *Due in class on Tuesday, February 14.*

An argumentative paper in which you will need to take a critical position on one of the topics we discuss in class. The paper will be 5-6 pages in length (about 1200-1500 words). A list of topics, along with further instructions, will be available several weeks before the assignment is due.

35% Second Paper: *Due in class on Tuesday, March 14.*

Another argumentative paper in which you will need to take a critical position on one of the topics we discuss in class. The second paper will be a bit longer than the first, from 6-8 pages in length (about 1500-2000 words). A list of topics, along with further instructions, will be available several weeks before the assignment is due.

35% Final Exam: *Take-home exam. Due date: April 25.*

The exam will have four sections; each section will have three questions on topics central to the course. You will need to answer one question from each section.
(n.b. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.)

COURSE MATERIALS:

Course Text: All readings are available on Ares, by Library Reserves.

You might consider purchasing:

René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (1641). Any edition.

(Copies are available at Haven Books, located five minutes off campus, at 43 Seneca St, Ottawa, ON K1S 4X2.)

N.B. Instructor generated course materials (including lecture slides, handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up under the law.

TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE:

WEEK ONE: Introduction

Reading: Course syllabus

WEEK TWO: The nature of philosophical inquiry **CLASS CANCELED on January 12th**

Reading: Jim Pryor, *Philosophical Terms and Methods* (2006),

Available online: <http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/index.html>

WEEK THREE: Cartesian Scepticism

Reading: René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (1641), *Meditations I and II*.

WEEK FOUR: Cartesian Dualism and the Mind-Body problem

Reading: René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (1641), *Meditation VI*.

René Descartes, *Passions of the Soul* (1649), (excerpts).

Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, *Correspondence with Descartes* (1643).

WEEK FIVE: Physicalism

Reading: Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind* (1949), Chapter One: Descartes' Myth, pp. 1-13.

J.J.C. Smart, *Sensations and Brain Processes* (1959), (excerpts), pp. 1-4.

WEEK SIX: Artificial Intelligence

Reading: Alan Turing, *Computing Machinery and Intelligence* (1950), pp. 430-66.

Hilary Putnam, *The Nature of Mental States* (1973), pp. 73-9.

John Searle, *Minds, brains, and programs* (1980), pp. 417-24.

WEEK SEVEN: The Nature of Consciousness *** *First Paper Due* ***

Reading: Thomas Nagel, What is it like to be a bat? (1974), (excerpts), pp. 1-3.
Frank Jackson, Epiphenomenal Qualia (1986), pp. 273-80.
David Chalmers, Facing up to the Problem of Consciousness (2010), pp. 1-8.
Patricia Churchland, The Hornswoggle Problem (1996), pp. 402-8.

*** *Reading Week: February 20-24* ***

WEEK EIGHT: Hybrid Intelligence

Reading: Andy Clark and David Chalmers, The Extended Mind (1998), pp. 7-19.
Brie Gertler, Over-extending the Mind (2007), pp. 1-13.
Jerry Fodor, Where is my mind? (2009), pp. 1-8.
David Chalmers, Foreword to *Supersizing the Mind* (2008), pp. ix-xvi.

WEEK NINE: Personal Identity

Reading: John Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding (1689), Chapter 27: Of Identity and Diversity. pp. 1-29.
Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature* (1739), Book I, Part 4, Section 6 “Personal Identity” (excerpts), pp. 132-3.
Daniel Dennett, Where am I? (1981), pp. 1-8.

WEEK TEN: Defining “Knowledge” *** *Second Paper Due* ***

Reading: Plato, The Meno, (97a-98b), pp. 1-2.
Edmund Gettier, Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?, pp. 121-3.

WEEK ELEVEN: The Nature of Knowledge

Reading: John Locke, The Empiricist Theory of Knowledge (1689), pp. 200-11.
George Berkeley, An Idealist Theory of Knowledge (1713), pp. 212-21.
David Hume, Skeptical Doubts concerning the Operations of the Understanding (1739), pp. 266-76.

WEEK TWELVE: The Nature of Linguistic Knowledge

Reading: Noam Chomsky, Review of B.F. Skinner’s Verbal Behavior (1959), pp. 26-58.
B.F. Skinner, Why I am not a cognitive psychologist (1977), pp. 1-10.
Hauser, M. D., Chomsky, N. & Fitch, T. The Faculty of Language: What Is It, Who Has It, and How Did It Evolve? (2002), pp. 1569-1579.

WEEK THIRTEEN: The problem of representation & Course review for exam

Reading: Martin Roth. Representations, philosophical issues about (2010), pp. 32-39.

READING LIST:

Berkeley, G. (1713). An Idealist Theory of Knowledge. In Pojman, L. P. and L. Vaughn (Eds.) *Philosophy: The Quest for Truth. Tenth Edition*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017): pp. 212-21.

Chalmers, D. (1995). Facing up to the Problem of Consciousness, *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 2(3): 200-19.

Chalmers, D. (2008). Foreword to *Supersizing the Mind*, by Andy Clark, (Oxford University Press): ix-xvi.

Churchland, P. (1966). The Hornswoggle Problem, *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 3(5-6): 402-8.

Clark, A. and D. Chalmers. (1998). The Extended Mind, *Analysis*, 58(1): 7-19.

Dennett, D. (1981) Where am I?, in *Brainstorms: Philosophical Essays on Mind and Psychology*, (Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press).

Descartes, R. (1641/2008). Meditations on First Philosophy. (Meditations I, II, and IV). Trans. M. Moriarty. (New York: Oxford University Press).

Descartes, R. (1649). Passions of the Soul (Excerpts), In Chalmers, D. (Ed.) *Philosophy of Mind Classical and Contemporary Readings* (Oxford, 2002): 21-23.

Elisabeth, Princess of Bohemia, (1643). Letter from May 6, 1643. In *Correspondence between Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia and René Descartes*, trans. L. Shapiro, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Fodor, J. (2009). Where is my mind?, *London Review of Books*, 31(3): 13-15.

Gettier, E. (1963). Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?, *Analysis*, 23(6): 121-123.

Gertler, B. (2007). Over-extending the Mind, In Brie Gertler & Lawrence Shapiro (eds.), *Arguing About the Mind*. Routledge: 192-206.

Hauser, M. D., Chomsky, N. & Fitch, T. (2002). The Faculty of Language: What Is It, Who Has It, and How Did It Evolve? *Science*, 298(5598): 1569-1579.

Hume, D. (1739). Book I, Part 4, Section 6 “Personal Identity” (First three pages only). In Hume, D., *Treatise of Human Nature*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1978).

Hume, D. (1739). Skeptical Doubts concerning the Operations of the Understanding. In Pojman, L. P. and L. Vaughn (Eds.) *Philosophy: The Quest for Truth. Tenth Edition*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017): pp. 266-76.

- 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.
- Locke, J. (1689). *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Chapter 27: Of Identity and Diversity. (London: Balne, Printer, Gracechurch Street).
- Locke, J. (1689). The Empiricist Theory of Knowledge. In Pojman, L. P. and L. Vaughn (Eds.) *Philosophy: The Quest for Truth*. Tenth Edition. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017): pp. 200-11.
- Nagel, T. (1974). What Is It Like to Be a Bat? *Philosophical Review*, 83(4): 435-450.
- Plato. (1997). The Meno (97a-98b), In Plato Complete works. Cooper, J. and D. Hutchinson (Eds). (Hackett Publishing).
- Putnam, H. (1980). Brains and Behavior. In N. Block Ed. *Readings in Philosophy of Psychology*, Volume One. (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press): pp. 24-37.
- Putnam, H. (1967). The Nature of Mental States, reprinted in Putnam, H. *Mind, Language, and Reality*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975): 429-440.
- Roth, M.A. (2010). Representations, philosophical issues about. *WIREs Cognitive Science* 1(1): 32-39.
- Ryle, G. (1949). Chapter One: Descartes' Myth, In *The Concept of Mind*, (University of Chicago Press).
- Searle, J. (1980). Minds, Brains and Programs. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 3(3): 417-424.
- Skinner, B.F. (1977). Why I am not a cognitive psychologist, *Behaviorism* 5(2): 1-10.
- Smart, J.J.C. (1959). Sensations and Brain Processes. *The Philosophical Review*, 68(2): 141-156.
- Turing, A. (1950). Computing Machinery and Intelligence, *Mind* 49: 433-66.

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 (both formally scheduled and take-homes), you must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of the exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 3 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*). Requests made within two

weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. 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
Registrar's Office:	520-2110 300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar
Student Academic Success Centre:	520-3500 302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc
Writing Tutorial Service:	520-7850 4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/
MacOdrum Library	520-6632 http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735