

# PHIL1301A Mind, World, and Knowledge

Fall 2014

Syllabus

## Instructor Information

**Course instructor:** Nalini E. Ramlakhan

**Office location:** Paterson Hall 329B

**E-mail:** [naliniramlakhan@gmail.com](mailto:naliniramlakhan@gmail.com)

**Office hours:** Wednesdays 8:45-9:45AM or by appointment

## Course Information

Fall 2014, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:35AM-9:55AM

**Course title:** Mind, World, and Knowledge

**Course number:** 1301A

**Room:** TBA

**Department:** Philosophy

## 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

This course examines two areas in philosophy: mind/body interaction and personal identity. The first part of this course explores dualist and materialist theories of mind and how humans acquire knowledge of the world around us. We will look at theories in philosophy of mind and philosophy of cognitive science, and how contemporary philosophers address the longstanding and pressing questions concerning mind and body/brain interaction.

The second part of this course explores personal identity and examines different theories of what a 'self' consists of. We will look at the ethical and moral responsibilities bound with different conceptions of personal identity.

## 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 use your cell phone during class. Do not be disruptive during class. I kindly ask that laptop users sit at the back of the classroom in order to avoid distractions to other students.

## Course Texts

Made available at Haven Bookstore

Heil, John. *Philosophy of Mind: A Contemporary Introduction* (3rd ed.). New York: Routledge, 2013.

Perry, John (ed.). *Personal Identity*. London: University of California Press, 1975.

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**

Grades will be based on a midterm examination, a final exam, one short essay, and 2 short quizzes.

### **QUIZ 1**

**Value:** 10%

**Date:** Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Description:** This quiz will test students on the material from lectures and readings, and will be in multiple choice and true/false format

### **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**Worth:** 20%

**Exam date:** Thursday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

### **QUIZ 2**

**Value:** 10%

**Date:** Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Description:** This quiz will test students on the material from lectures and readings, and will be in multiple choice and true/false format

### **SHORT ESSAY**

**Value:** 30%

**Due date:** Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

**Length:** 4-6 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font

**Submission policy:** Submit your essay in class ON or BEFORE the due date. Late penalties are 5 points per calendar day late (i.e. 5% of your final assignment grade) unless you have reached a prior agreement with me. Points may also be detracted for grammar and spelling errors.

### **FINAL EXAM**

**Value:** 30%

**Test Date:** TBA

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

## Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
September 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Syllabus overview Introduction to philosophy	Heil, Chapter 1 Searle, Introduction
September 9 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Cartesian Dualism	Searle, Chapter 1 Heil, Chapter 2
September 16 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Dualism-Movie and discussion	Searle, Chapter 1 Heil, Chapter 2
September 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Dualism, Materialism	Heil, Chapter 3 Searle, Chapter 2
September 30 <sup>th</sup> and October 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2014	Materialism	Searle, Chapter 2 Heil, Chapters 4 and 5
October 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Materialism	Searle, Chapters 3 and 8 Heil, Chapter 6
October 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	<b>Quiz 1</b>	No Readings
October 14 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Personal identity-Movie and discussion, Review for midterm (Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup> )	No Readings
October 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	No Class	
October 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	No Readings
November 4 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Personal identity	Searle, Chapter 11 Shoemaker, Introduction Locke, Of Identity and Diversity (Perry, Chapter 2 and 7)
November 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Personal identity, essay topics handed out, discussion on how to write a philosophy essay	Hume on identity (Perry, Chapters 10-12), Hume, Selection from Book I, Part 4, Section 6 of <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> <a href="http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/pi.htm">http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/pi.htm</a>
November 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Personal identity-fugue states, memory	No Readings
November 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Personal identity	Shoemaker, Chapter 1
November 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	<b>Quiz 2</b>	No Readings

November 25 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Personal identity	Shoemaker, Chapters 2 and 3
December 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2014	<b>*Papers due Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>*</b> Personal identity and moral and ethical responsibility	Shoemaker, Chapters 7 and 8
December 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	No class	

## 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](mailto: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 <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a> 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/">http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735