



PHIL 1301: Mind, World, and Knowledge

0.5 credit. Introduction to a variety of philosophical works, including contemporary, on such topics as: the nature of being, the mental, the external, consciousness, perception, experience, meaning, truth, the nature of knowledge, scientific understanding, and how language and thought represent the world.

Late Summer Term 2023
Tuesdays & Thursdays
2:35–5:25 p.m. (online)

Dr. David Matheson
Department of Philosophy
3A49 Paterson Hall
613-520-2600 ext. 1928
david.matheson@carleton.ca

Office hours (online availability):
Tuesdays & Thursdays
1:30–2:30 p.m.

Overview & objective

This course will introduce you to a number of issues in two main areas of philosophy: epistemology, which is concerned with the requirements and limits of genuine knowledge, and the philosophy of mind, which focuses on the nature of the mind and its relationship to the body. Some of the issues we will explore, such as skepticism about the external world and free will, fall squarely into one or the other of these two areas. Other issues we will explore, such as the problem of other minds and naturalism, fall into both areas.

There are two main objectives in this course. The first is to give you a good, basic understanding of the key issues in epistemology and the philosophy of mind. The second is to develop your capacity to think for yourself, critically and philosophically, about such issues.

Lectures & office hours

The live course lectures will be accessible via the Zoom links I will post in Brightspace. They will take place during the scheduled class times, twice a week. I will record the Zoom lectures and post them in Brightspace after they take place, for those who are unable to watch them live.

My office hours for the late summer term will be virtual. I will be available by email for the hour before each of our scheduled class times, to answer as quickly as I can (and on a first-come, first-serve basis) any email questions you may want to send me during the hour. You may of course email me about the course at any other time as well, but my replies may not be as quick as the office hour ones.

Textbook

We will use the following, required textbook to guide our lectures and discussions in the course:

Brook, A. & R. Stainton. (2000). *Knowledge and mind: A philosophical introduction*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Copies of this textbook are available for purchase from the university's bookstore.

Evaluation

Tests (30+40% = 70% of overall grade).

Throughout this late summer term you will be expected to take two scheduled tests. They will be online tests, delivered via Brightspace. **Note that you must take the tests at the scheduled times**; you won't be able to take them afterwards, and missing one of these test times is like missing a formally scheduled exam. These test times cannot be tailored to individual student personal (including work or travel) schedules.

In keeping with the main objective of the course, the purpose of these tests is to ensure that you have a good understanding of the issues so far discussed in the course and are developing your capacity for cogent philosophical reflection. The first test will focus on what we've covered since the start of the course. The second test will focus on what we've covered since the first test. Each test will consist of a number of multiple-choice questions as well as brief essay-style questions.

You will have one hour to complete each test. The first test will be worth 30% of your overall grade, the second 40%. The first test will be on July 18 at 2:35 p.m. The second test will be on August 8 at 2:35 p.m.

Note these will be closed-book tests, and that the general rules for university examinations, as listed in Section 4.2 of the Undergraduate Calendar (see <https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/examinations/#deferred-final-exams>) will apply to them.

Term paper (30% of overall grade).

You will also be expected to write a term paper for the course. The paper will be approximately five double-spaced pages (or 1,500 words) in length. I will distribute the topic options for the paper by the final day of classes for the late summer term. The paper should be submitted electronically, via the Brightspace link, by 11:59 p.m. on the final day of the early summer term's examination period, June 25.

I will say more about what you should be trying to do in your term paper as we near the end of classes. But note for now that it will be important when writing the paper to avoid plagiarism, as defined in the university's Academic Integrity Policy (see <https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy-2021.pdf>).

Schedule

The left column of the following table lists the scheduled online lecture times. The centre column indicates the topics I plan to address during those lectures. In the right column are the readings from the text corresponding to these topics.

July 4	Introducing epistemology and the philosophy of mind; basics of philosophical reasoning	Brook & Stainton, Chapter 1
July 6	Skepticism about the external world; the analysis of knowledge; the Gettier problem	Brook & Stainton, Chapter 2
July 11	Knowledge of language; nativism and empiricism; thought and language	Brook & Stainton, Chapter 3
July 13	Dualism and materialism about the mind; the mind-body problem; implications for immortality, personal identity, and free will	Brook & Stainton, Chapter 4 (pp. 63-73)
July 18	Test 1 (2:35–3:35 p.m.)	
July 20	The mark of the mental; interesting varieties of dualism and materialism; the specter of eliminativist materialism	Brook & Stainton, Chapter 4 (pp. 73-101)
July 25	The manifest image, the scientific image, and views of the mind; traditional arguments for dualism	Brook & Stainton, Chapter 5
July 27	Free will, determinism, and responsibility; libertarian, hard determinist, and compatibilist perspectives on free will	Brook & Stainton, Chapter 6
August 1	The problem of other minds; analogical, neurological, behaviorist, and explanatory responses to the problem	Brook & Stainton, Chapter 7 (pp. 165-83)

August 3	Self-knowledge and the reliability of introspection	Brook & Stainton, Chapter 7 (pp. 184-87)
August 8	Test 2 (2:35–3:35 p.m.)	
August 10	Naturalism as a general philosophical perspective; Quine’s naturalized epistemology	Brook & Stainton, Chapter 8 (pp. 189-95)
August 15	Implications of naturalism for the philosophy of mind and epistemology; the rise of cognitive science	Brook & Stainton, Chapter 8 (pp. 195-218)
August 25	Term paper due (11:59 p.m.)	

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 2023)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically.

Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or religious obligation:* Please contact your instructor 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](#).
- *Academic accommodations for students with disabilities:* If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the [Paul Menton Centre website](#).
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support
- *Accommodation for Student Activities:* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

Important Dates:

May 4	Classes start.	July 3	Statutory holiday, University closed.
May 10	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>early</u> summer courses.	July 4	Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume.
May 17	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>full</u> summer courses.	July 10	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>late</u> summer courses.
May 17	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from <u>early</u> summer courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.	July 17	Last day to withdraw from <u>late</u> summer courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
May 22	Statutory holiday, University closed.	Aug. 1	Last day for academic withdrawal from full and late summer courses.
May 31	Last day to withdraw from full summer courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.	Aug. 7	Civic holiday, University closed.
June 9	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>early</u> summer courses before the official examination period.	Aug. 9	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses before the official examination period.
June 16	Last day for <u>early</u> summer classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline.	Aug. 16	Last day of <u>late</u> and <u>full</u> summer term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline.
June 17-18	No classes or examinations take place.	Aug. 17-18	No classes or examinations take place.
June 19-25	Final examinations.	Aug. 19-25	Final examinations.
June 25	Take-home examinations for <u>early</u> summer courses are due.	Aug. 25	Take-home examinations for <u>late</u> or <u>full</u> summer courses are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:
www.carleton.ca/philosophy
 520-2110

Registrar's Office:
www.carleton.ca/registrar
 520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:
www.carleton.ca/academicadvising
 520-7850

Writing Services:
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>
 520-3822

MacOdrum Library
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>
 520-2735