

**PHIL 2501**  
**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**

**Term:** Summer 2012

**Meetings:** Mondays & Wednesdays: 6:05-8:55

**Venue:** Southam Hall 317

**Instructor:** Jordan Dodd

**Office:** Paterson Hall 329B

**Office hours:** 4:30-5:30pm Mondays

**Email:** jordan\_dodd@carleton.ca

**Course Website:** via <http://jordandodd.wordpress.com>

### **1. Course description**

This course is an introduction to some of the core questions of philosophy of mind, such as:

- What distinguishes minds from non-minds (that is, from everything else)?
- How are minds related brains?
- What distinguishes self-knowledge from knowledge in general (that is, from knowledge of things other than one's own mental states)?

We will focus on contemporary work on these questions. In philosophy, that means work by people who are either still alive or just died recently.

No prior experience in philosophy is required. Prerequisite: a course in philosophy or second-year standing.

### **2. Texts**

There is a course reader. It contains about one-third of the readings for the course. It's available at Octopus Books in the Glebe, at Bank & 3<sup>rd</sup> (116 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue). You can also have Octopus Books ship it to you, if you order online: [www.octopusbooks.org](http://www.octopusbooks.org)

All other readings will be available via WebCT.

### **3. Course Requirements**

All of the evaluation in this course will involve writing. All the writing will either consist of writing *very short things* or *pretty short things*. Specifically, the marking scheme is:

10% Mini-papers

3 Essays, each worth 30%

### ***Mini-papers***

Six mini-papers are required. These are to be very brief – approx .75-1 page long – critical evaluations of theses or arguments in the assigned readings. It's your choice which readings you write these on, within the following constraints:

- You may do no more than two mini-papers in any given week.
- You may hand in no more than one mini-paper in any given class.
- You must hand in your mini-paper at the start of the class in which we address the reading that your mini-paper addresses.

See the WebCT handout on mini-papers for more information about them.

### ***Essays***

Three short essays are required. Although the length of the essays is kind of flexible, the general range should be 1000-1200 words.

**Essay #1** will be assigned on Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> ... and is due on Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>

**Essay #2** will be assigned on Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> ... and is due on Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>

**Essay #3** will be assigned on Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> ... and is due on Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

We'll talk about these essays at length when they get closer.

### **4. Respect**

Please be respectful of your classmates (and me!) at all times during classes. This includes, for example, not talking when others are, and – obviously – not espousing any sort of bigoted views. If I feel that you're being disruptive, I'll kick you out.

### **5. Cell phones**

Please turn off your cell phones before class starts. It's really annoying when they make noises during class. If for some reason you're expecting an urgent call, just mention this to me before class.

### **6. Email**

I do generally respond to emails ... but usually not quickly. In other words, you shouldn't think of me as being 'on call' via email at all times. One reason to note this is that you *should not* put off contacting me about pressing matters until the last minute. Odds are that last minute emails won't reach my attention in time.

## 8. Cheats!

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty are stupid. Don't do either, on anything you write for this course (or any other course!) The penalty for plagiarism will be 0% on that assignment with no opportunity to rewrite, and an incident report will be sent to the Dean's Office (which will determine further action).

Be sure that you are familiar with the university plagiarism rules, which can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar, Academic Regulations, section 14.3, pg. 56 – or online: <http://www.carleton.ca/cu0809uc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>

## 9. Feedback

The university asks for your feedback on this course at the end of the semester. That sort of feedback has its place, but it doesn't really help me change things on the fly – namely, in ways that will help you, as opposed to just helping future students. So give me feedback: after class, via email, around campus, whenever. Tell me that I should go faster or slower on certain material, that such and such topic should be covered in more detail, that our discussion of such and such wasn't clear – or tell me that you think we are going a good speed, that such and such topic was covered in good detail, that our discussion of such and such topic was nice and clear. The moral of the story is that feedback, be it positive, negative, or some shade in between, is welcome and appreciated.

## 10. Miscellaneous Info (about formatting, references, and late penalties)

(1) Formatting requirements:

- All mini-papers and essays must be handed in type written, in double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font with 1" margins on all sides.
- Don't put a title page on *anything*
- Put your name, your student number, the course number, and my name at the top of any document that you hand in, like this:

Student's Name, Student Number  
Course Number, Course Instructor's Name

(2) Citations:

- Bibliographies and footnotes/parenthetical notation are not required for the mini-papers. But they are required for the essays.

(3) Late essays

- Late essays will be penalized one letter step per day late.
- So: If an 'A' paper is handed in a day late, it will receive an 'A-', and if it's handed in two days late, it will receive a 'B+'.

- Late essays will be accepted without penalty if, and only if, there are well-documented, legitimate reason.

### **11. Read the official policies**

Various official Carleton U. and Department of Philosophy policies are laid out in the 'University Policies' document that follows. You're responsible for knowing all of the material that's presented there. That requirement just follows from being a student in this class.

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies

### 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/accommodation/>

**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/accommodation/>

**Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations** in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you

only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

### Important Dates:

May 7	Early and full summer classes begin.
May 14	Last day for registration and course changes for early summer courses.
May 18	Last day for registration and course changes for full summer courses.
May 21	Statutory holiday – university closed.
May 31	Last day to withdraw from early summer courses with full fee adjustment.
June 8	Last day to withdraw from full summer courses with a full fee adjustment. Last day to submit to the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities, formal Examination Accommodation Forms for June examinations.
June 11-21	Fall/winter and winter term deferred final examinations will be held.
June 12	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
June 19	Last day of early summer classes for non-Engineering students. Last day for academic withdrawal from early summer courses. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
June 22-27	Early summer examinations will be held.
June 30	Final deadline for summer term fee payment.
July 2	Statutory holiday – university closed.
July 3	Late summer classes begin. Full summer classes resume.
July 10	Last day for registration and course changes for late summer courses.
July 20	Last day for withdrawal from late summer courses with full fee adjustment.
July 27	Last day to submit to the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities, formal Examination Accommodation Forms for August examinations.
August 6	Statutory holiday – university closed.
August 8	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
August 15	Last day for late summer and full summer classes. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline. Last day for academic withdrawal from late summer and full summer courses and any other courses that end this term.
August 18-23	Summer examinations will be held.
Sept. 28-29	Summer term deferred final examinations will be held.
Sept. 30	Last day for receipt of applications for review of final grades for summer term courses.

### Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 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
Paul Menton Centre:	500 University Centre <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/pmc">www.carleton.ca/pmc</a> 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/wts">www.carleton.ca/wts</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735