**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**

**(PHIL 2501 A)**

Carleton University, Fall 2023

**Day/Time:** Tuesday, Thursday 2:35pm – 3:55pm **Location:** Health Science Building 1301

Prof. Myrto Mylopoulos

**Office:** 3A47 Paterson Hall **Office Telephone:** 613-520-2600 x3943

**Office Hours:** By appointment (over Zoom or in-person, depending on availability)

**E-mail:** [Myrto.Mylopoulos@carleton.ca](mailto:Myrto.Mylopoulos@carleton.ca)

**Course Website:** <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/210950>

**Course Description**

This course centers around philosophical issues that are today referred to collectively as “the mind-body problem.” This problem is a search for an answer to the question, ‘What is the relationship between the mind and the physical body?’ The search raises a host of fascinating questions, including whether mind and body are distinct, whether a physical explanation of consciousness is possible, and whether artificial machines could have minds. We will explore these questions and more through both a historical and contemporary lens.

**Course Objectives**

Our aim in this course will be to support and develop the following:

* An understanding of key concepts, questions, issues, and debates in the philosophy of mind surrounding the mind-body problem.
* An understanding of key aspects of the historical context from which the contemporary debates surrounding the mind-body problem have arisen.
* An ability to read, engage with, and analyze philosophical texts.
* An ability to articulate, in writing, a coherent understanding of a philosophical issue or debate.

**Course Materials**

* Required Textbook: Morton & Mylopoulos (2020), *Philosophy of Mind: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives* (3rd Edition). Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.

**Course Requirements**

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| **Course Component** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| Reading Assignments | 20% |
| Test #1 (Oct. 3) | 25% |
| Test #2 (Nov. 2) | 25% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

**Reading Assignments**

Readings from the course textbook will be assigned for every class session except the first and last, and on our two in-class test days.

To work through the course readings, we will be using Perusall, a collaborative e-reading platform that enables you to tackle the readings together as a group in between our class sessions. The reading assignments you complete on Perusall will be worth **20%** of your final grade. They will be due the day before class **(Mondays and Wednesdays) by 8pm**.

We will discuss further details for these reading assignments on the first day of class.

For instructions on how to register for and use Perusall, please see the *Guide to Perusall* posted under Week 1 on our course Brightspace page.

**Tests**

There will be two in-class tests in this course. The first will be held on **October 3rd**, and the second will be held on November 2nd. They are each worth **25%** of your final grade each. They will be composed of multiple choice and short essay questions.

**Final Exam**

There will a final exam in this course, worth **30%** of your final grade, to be held during the Winter Examination Period, **December 10th to December 22nd**. Exact date, time, and location TBA.

**Electronic Devices in the Classroom**

Please turn off (or silence) your cell phones and put them away at the start of class. The use of laptops for the **sole purpose** of note-taking is permitted.

**Online Availability**

I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24 hours, but I may not always be able to do so. (And I’ll likely be slower on weekends or holidays.) If you think your message will require a very lengthy reply from me, it’s probably best to arrange a meeting instead.

**Course Readings/Topics Schedule**

All page numbers below refer to our course textbook.

**\*\*Check Brightspace for most up-to-date version.\*\***

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| Date | Topic | Readings |
| Sept. 6 | Introduction to the Course | No assigned readings |
| Sept. 12 | Ancient Conceptions of the Soul | Plato, Selections from the *Phaedo* (pp. 19-39) |
| Sept. 14 | Ancient Conceptions of the Soul | Aristotle, Selections from *On the Soul* and *Sense and Sensibilia* (pp. 41-56) |
| Sept. 19 | Cartesian Dualism | Descartes, Selections from *Meditations on First Philosophy* (pp. 77-91) |
| Sept. 21 | Cartesian Dualism | Descartes, Selections from *Meditations on First Philosophy* (pp. 91-101; pp. 103-106) |
| Sept. 26 | Materialism | Hobbes, Selections from *Leviathan* (pp.141-156) |
| Sept. 28 | Idealism | Berkeley, Selections from *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge* (pp. 156-164) |
| Oct. 3 | **TEST #1** | No assigned readings |
| Oct. 5 | Behavourism | Ryle, Selections from *The Concept of Mind* (pp. 167-186; pp. 207-218) |
| Oct. 10 | Behaviourism | Wittgenstein, Selections from *Philosophical Investigations* (pp. 218-224) |
| Oct. 12 | Identity Theory | Smart, “Sensations and Brain Processes” (pp. 225-242; pp. 250-260) |
| Oct. 17 | Functionalism | Armstrong, “The Nature of Mind” (pp. 271-300) |
| Oct. 19 | Functionalism | Fodor, “The Mind-Body Problem” (pp. 301-313) |
| **Oct. 24** | **NO CLASS** | **FALL BREAK** |
| **Oct. 26** | **NO CLASS** | **FALL BREAK** |
| Oct. 31 | Functionalism | Block, Selections from “Troubles with Functionalism” (pp. 313-321) |
| Nov. 2 | **TEST #2** | No assigned readings |
| Nov. 7 | Artificial Intelligence | Turing, “Computing Machinery and Intelligence” (pp. 325 – 360) |
| Nov. 9 | Artificial Intelligence | Searle, “Minds, Brains, and Programs” (pp. 360-374) |
| Nov. 14 | Artificial Intelligence | Boden, “Escaping the Chinese Room” (pp. 375-386) |
| Nov. 16 | Artificial Intelligence | Schwitzgebel & Garza, “A Defense of the Rights of Artificial Intelligences” (pp. 387-405) |
| Nov. 21 | Consciousness | Nagel, “What Is It Like to Be a Bat?” (pp. 407-443) |
| Nov. 23 | Consciousness | Dennett, “Quining Qualia” (pp. 451-471) |
| Nov. 28 | Consciousness | Akins, “A Bat Without Qualities?” (pp. 491-505) |
| Nov. 30 | Consciousness | Hardcastle, “The Why of Consciousness: A Non-Issue for Materialists” |
| Dec. 7 | **REVIEW** | No assigned readings |

**Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2023/2024)**

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 34), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 B+ = 77-79 C+ = 67-69 D+ = 57-59

A = 85-89 B = 73-76 C = 63-66 D = 53-56

A - = 80-84 B - = 70-72 C - = 60-62 D - = 50-52

F = Below 50

Grades entered by Registrar:

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

DEF = Deferred

**Assignments**

Please follow your professor’s instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

**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 takehome 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**

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.”* This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

* any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
* using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
* using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement; and
* failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotation marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

**Statement on Student Mental Health**

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

**Emergency Resources** **(on and off campus):** [https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergencynumbers/](https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/)

**Carleton Resources:**

* Mental Health and Wellbeing:<https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
* Health & Counselling Services:<https://carleton.ca/health/>
* Paul Menton Centre:<https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
* Academic Advising Centre (AAC):<https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
* Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS):<https://carleton.ca/csas/>
* Equity & Inclusivity Communities:<https://carleton.ca/equity/>

**Off Campus Resources:**

* Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550,<https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
* Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991,<http://www.crisisline.ca/>
* Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389,<https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
* Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454,<https://good2talk.ca/>
* The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: [https://walkincounselling.com](https://walkincounselling.com/)

**Statement on Pandemic Measures**

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](https://carleton.ca/covid19/health-and-safety/reducing-your-risks/) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you’re sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

**Feeling sick?** Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton’s [symptom reporting protocols.](https://carleton.ca/covid19/covid-19-symptom-reporting/)

**Masks**

Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, the university continues to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained.

**Vaccines**

While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](https://carleton.ca/covid19/cuscreen/) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton’s COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University’s COVID-19 website](https://carleton.ca/covid19/) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).](https://carleton.ca/covid19/faq/) Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

**Requests for Academic Accommodations**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

* **Pregnancy obligation**: Please 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here)](https://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/pregnancy-accommodation-form/).
* **Religious obligation:** Please 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 [click here.](https://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/religious-observances/)
* **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 me 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 me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

* **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:<https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>
* **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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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. [https://carleton.ca/senate/wpcontent/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf](https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf)

**Important Dates for the Fall Term:**

Sept. 6 Classes start.

Sept. 19 Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.

Sept. 30 Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

Oct. 9 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Oct. 23-27 Fall Break – no classes.

Nov. 24 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.

Dec. 8 Last day of fall term classes. **Classes follow a Monday schedule.** Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. 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 a fall term course.

Dec. 10-22 Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.

Dec. 22 All take-home examinations are due.

**Important Contact Information**

Department of Philosophy:

[www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)

Tel: 613-520-2110

Registrar’s Office:

[www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)

Tel: 613-520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:

[www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising)

Tel: 613-520-7850

Writing Services:

<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

Tel : 613-520-3822

MacOdrum Library

<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>

Tel : 613-520-2735