**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**

**(PHIL 2501 A)**

Carleton University, Fall 2024

**Day/Time:** Wednesday, Friday 10:05am – 11:25am

Prof. Myrto Mylopoulos

**Office Hours:** By appointment (over Zoom or in-person)

**Office:** 3A47 Paterson Hall

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

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

**Course Description**

In this course, we will focus on classical and contemporary issues in the philosophy of mind. It is

divided into three main sections. The first examines the mind-body problem, which is central in

the philosophy of mind and introduces the study of the mind from diverse perspectives. We will look at foundational theories of the mind. The second section of the course focuses on the

nature of consciousness and, in particular, on the question of whether a physical explanation of it is possible. The third and final section of the course takes up further problems in the philosophy of mind, such as how to theorize about consciousness, how far consciousness is distributed in the animal kingdom, whether artificial machines could have conscious minds, and the nature of the self.

**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.
* 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: Bayne (2022), *Philosophy of Mind: An Introduction* (1st Edition), Routledge Press.
  + Available to rent or buy at the Carleton bookstore in both digital and hardcopy formats.

**Course Requirements**

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| --- | --- |
| **Course Component** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| Test #1 (Oct. 2) | 30% |
| Test #2 (Nov. 6) | 30% |
| Final Exam (TBA) | 40% |

Please note that there will be **no extra credit assignments** in this course.

**Readings**

Readings will be assigned for every class except the first, and our two test days. We will work our way through the course textbook, which will provide us with a clear structure from within which to tackle a range of central issues in philosophy of mind. Alongside the main text, we will also read a selection of primary sources that are referenced therein. After all, in order to *do* philosophy you must *read* philosophy. The primary source readings will be made available for you on Brightspace.

It is extremely important that you keep up with the course readings and complete them before each class. The lectures will be entirely based on them and serve to elucidate key concepts, as well as reconstruct and evaluate key arguments and claims. They will be difficult to follow if you haven’t done the readings beforehand.

**Tests**

There will be two in-class tests in this course. The first will be held on **October 2nd**, and the second will be held on **November 6th**. They are each worth **30%** of your final grade. They will be composed of multiple choice and short essay questions. Legitimate excuses for absence from a test are limited to illness, emergency, or bereavement.

If you miss a test for one of these reasons, you **must get in touch with me within 48 hours to arrange to write a make-up**. **No exceptions.**

If you miss a test but have no legitimate reason for doing so, or you fail to arrange to write a make-up, then you will receive a zero for that test.

**Final Exam**

There will be a final exam in this course, worth **40%** of your final grade, to be held during the Winter Examination Period, **December 10th to December 22nd**. Exact date, time, and location TBA.

**Classroom Etiquette**

In order to ensure that classes run as smoothly as possible without distractions or interruptions, I ask that you please take care to do the following:

* Do your very best to come to class on time. If you are late, please take your seat quietly and avoid disrupting the class.
* Silence and put away your phones at the start of class.
* If you use a laptop or tablets for note-taking, please don’t get side-tracked by other activities (e.g., texting, e-mailing, going on the internet, looking up funny cat videos).
* Wait until I’ve signaled that class is finished to pack up your stuff.

**Online Availability**

I will do my best to respond to your emails within 48 hours, but I may not always be able to do so. (And I’ll likely be slower on weekends and 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.

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Topic | Readings |
| Sept. 4 | Introduction to the Course | No assigned readings |
| Sept. 6 | Key Concepts and Puzzles in the Philosophy of Mind | Bayne, Ch. 1 |
| Sept. 11 | Dualism | Bayne, Ch. 2.1  Descartes, Selections from *Meditations on First Philosophy* |
| Sept. 13 | Dualism (cont’d) | Descartes, Selections from *Meditations on First Philosophy* |
| Sept. 18 | Behaviourism | Bayne, Ch. 3.1  Ryle, Selections from *The Concept of Mind* |
| Sept. 20 | Mind-Brain Identity Theory | Bayne, Ch. 3.2  Smart, “Sensations and Brain Processes” |
| Sept. 25 | Functionalism | Bayne, Ch. 3.3  Fodor, “The Mind-Body Problem” |
| Sept. 27 | Functionalism (cont’d) | Searle, “Minds, Brains, and Programs” |
| Oct. 2 | **Test #1** | No assigned readings |
| Oct. 4 | Against Physicalism | Bayne, Ch. 8.1  Jackson, “Epiphenomenal Qualia” |
| Oct. 9 | Against Physicalism (cont’d) | Nagel, “What Is It Like to Be a Bat?” |
| Oct. 11 | Against Physicalism (cont’d) | Chalmers, “Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness” |
| Oct. 16 | Type A Physicalist Responses | Bayne, Ch. 8.2  Akins, “A Bat Without Qualities?” |
| Oct. 18 | Type A Physicalist Responses (cont’d) | Churchland, “The Hornswoggle Problem” |
| **Oct. 23** | **NO CLASS** | **FALL BREAK** |
| **Oct. 25** | **NO CLASS** | **FALL BREAK** |
| Oct. 30 | Type B Physicalist Responses | Bayne, Ch. 8.3  Balog, “In Defense of the Phenomenal Concept Strategy” |
| Nov. 1 | Illusionism | Bayne, Ch. 8.4  Frankish, “Illusionism as a Theory of Consciousness” |
| Nov. 6 | **Test #2** |  |
| Nov. 8 | How to Theorize About Consciousness | Bayne, Ch. 9.1, 9.2 |
| Nov. 13 | Theories of Consciousness | Bayne, 9.3  Lau & Rosenthal, “Empirical Support for Higher-Order Theories of Conscious Awareness” |
| Nov. 15 | **TBA** |  |
| Nov. 20 | Theories of Consciousness (cont’d) | Bayne, 9.4 |
| Nov. 22 | Animal Consciousness | Bayne, Ch. 11.3, 11.4  Birch, “The Search for Invertebrate Consciousness” |
| Nov. 27 | Artificial Consciousness (cont’d) | Bayne , Ch. 11.5 Chalmers, “Could a Large Language Model Be Conscious?” |
| Nov. 29 | The Self | Bayne, Ch. 13.1-13.4 |
| Dec. 4 | The Self (cont’d) | Bayne, Ch. 13.5  Dennett, “The Self as a Center of Narrative Gravity” |

**Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2024/2025)**

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/emergencyhttps://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/numbers/](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/)

**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/wphttps://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdfcontent/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf](https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf)

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 4 Classes start.

Sept. 17 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. 14 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Oct. 21-25 Fall Break – no classes.

Nov. 22 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. 6 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. 9-21 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. 21 All take-home examinations are due.

Jan. 6 Classes start.

Jan. 17 Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.

Jan. 31 Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

Feb. 17 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Feb. 17-21 Winter Break – no classes.

Mar. 15 Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses.

Mar. 25 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.

Mar. 25 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Apr. 8 Last day of two-term 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 two-term and for winter term courses.

Apr. 9-10 No classes or examinations take place.

Apr. 11-26 Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.

Apr. 18 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Apr. 26 All take-home examinations are due.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:

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

520-2110

Registrar’s Office:

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

520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:

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