

Mind, World, and Knowledge (PHIL1301A)

Carleton University, Winter 2019

Day/Time: Mon. & Wed., 11:35 am – 12:55 pm **Location:** Azrieli Theatre 301

Dr. Joshua Shepherd

Office: 3A61 **Office Telephone:** 1783

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1 – 3 pm

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Official Calendar Description

PHIL 1301 [0.5 credit]

Mind, World, and Knowledge

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.

Precludes additional credit for PHIL 1006 (no longer offered), PHIL 1501 (no longer offered).

Lectures three hours per week.

Course Overview

This course introduces central concepts and issues in Metaphysics (thus, ‘world’), Philosophy of Mind (thus, ‘mind’), and Epistemology (thus, ‘knowledge’). As these concepts and issues interpenetrate to some degree, the course offers an introduction to philosophical reflection on the nature of reality, our place in it, and how we might come to know of these things.

Course Objectives

I have three main goals for students in this course. First, students will become familiar with foundational issues and questions in Metaphysics, the Philosophy of Mind, and Epistemology. Second, students will develop an understanding of the diversity and breadth of philosophical inquiry into these issues. Third, students will be given the chance to improve their critical reasoning skills through direct engagement with philosophical texts, as well as through in-class discussion and analysis of relevant issues.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

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

Course Materials

The content of quizzes and tests will come primarily from the lectures. The reading list is recommended, as the lectures will often cover content covered in the readings. **I do not re-deliver lectures during office hours. If you miss a class, seek help from a classmate.**

Office Hours

I am always happy to see students during my office hours. Due to the size of this class, I am very limited in my ability to meet students outside of office hours. The function of office hours is to clarify concepts and answer questions that cannot be easily answered by consulting the syllabus or by sending an e-mail. The function of office hours is not to re-deliver missed lectures or missed notes, nor is it to haggle over grades.

Course Requirements and Grade policies

Grade Schematic

Quizzes	33%
Tests	33% each, x2

Quizzes

Quizzes will be offered on-line, over the course of a day, at our course's website on CULearn. They will cover content discussed in recent classes. There will be roughly one quiz per week. I will announce when they occur (usually they occur on Wednesdays).

Missed quizzes policy

Missed quizzes cannot be made up. I will drop missed quizzes if the student has a valid excuse, as determined by me (e.g., a doctor's note explaining why you were unable to take a quiz on the day it was offered).

Test policy

Missed tests cannot be made up. If there is an excellent reason for having missed a test and having not notified me ahead of time, I will consider giving a different test covering the material.

Attendance policy

I do not take attendance, but it is important. Much that is on the quizzes and tests stems from in-class notes and discussions.

Notes policy

I do not post notes, as I wish to encourage the development of note-taking as a skill. I do encourage students to share notes, and to create editable on-line documents (on google drive, for example) for helping one another out.

Final grade

The final grade is a function of performance on Quizzes and Tests.

Readings and Course Outline

TEST ONE: this will cover material from the first five weeks of the course (hopefully up to the section on consciousness). The test will likely take place in class on Feb. 13, but I will confirm closer to the date.

TEST TWO: this will cover material from the next five weeks of the course (hopefully up to the section on skepticism). The test will likely occur in class on March 25, but I will confirm closer to the date.

Part One: The World and its Structure

Realism, Anti-realism, and in-between

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: 'Realism' <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/realism/>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: 'Universals' <http://www.iep.utm.edu/universa/>

Social Categories

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 'Naturalistic approaches to social construction' <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/social-construction-naturalistic/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 'Feminist Metaphysics' <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-metaphysics/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: 'Disability: Definitions, Models, Experience' <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/disability/>

Part Two: The Mind, Agency, and Personal Identity

Mind and Consciousness

David Chalmers, 'Facing up to the problem of consciousness' <http://consc.net/papers/facing.html>

Daniel Dennett, 'Facing backwards on the problem of consciousness' <https://ase.tufts.edu/cogstud/dennett/papers/chalmers.htm>

Agency

Harry Frankfurt, 'The problem of action' <https://voices.uchicago.edu/wittgenstein/files/2007/10/frankfurt-the-problem-of-action.pdf>

Harry Frankfurt, 'The importance of what we care about' <http://omero.humnet.unipi.it/matdid/587/Frankfurt%20The%20Importance%20of%20what%20we%20care%20about.pdf>

Identity

Daniel Dennett, 'Where am I?' <https://www.lehigh.edu/~mhb0/Dennett-WhereAmI.pdf>

David Velleman, 'So it goes' http://www.amherstlecture.org/velleman2006/velleman2006_ALP.pdf

Susan Schneider, 'The metaphysics of uploading' http://schneiderwebsite.com/Susan_Schneiders_Website/Research_files/The%20Metaphysics%20of%20Uploading%20.pdf

Part 3: Knowledge

Skepticism

Nick Bostrom, 'Are you living in a computer simulation?' <https://www.simulation-argument.com/simulation.html>

John Pollock, 'A brain in a vat' <http://www.uky.edu/~mwa229/Pollock.pdf>

David Chalmers, 'The Matrix as metaphysics,' <http://consc.net/papers/matrix.pdf>

Disagreement

Hilary Kornblith, 'Belief in the face of disagreement'

<https://sites.google.com/site/hkornblith/home/publications/belief-in-the-face-of-controversy>

David Christensen, 'Disagreement, question-begging, and epistemic self-criticism'

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/p/pod/dod-idx/disagreement-question-begging-and-epistemic-self-criticism.pdf?c=phimp;idno=3521354.0011.006;format=pdf>

Trust

Alvin Goldman, 'Experts: Which ones should you trust?'

http://kutrov.web.elte.hu/tudhat/11_goldman.pdf

Elizabeth Fricker, 'Against Gullibility' <https://philpapers.org/archive/FRIAG.pdf>

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2018-19)

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 on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- 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.

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 Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

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. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation:

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

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. carleton.ca/pmc

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/>

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 is 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Important Dates:

Sept. 5	Classes start.
Sept. 18	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. 8	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 22-26	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 23	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. 7	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. 7	Classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 18	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 18-22	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 26	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.
Apr. 9	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter 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 two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 12-27	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 19-21	Statutory holiday. University closed. No examinations take place.
Apr. 27	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/ 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735