

Mind, World, and Knowledge  
Summer 2017  
Syllabus

**Instructor Information**

**Course instructor:** Dr. Nalini E. Ramlakhan

**Office location:** Paterson Hall, 3A54

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**Office hours:** Thursdays, 4:45PM-5:45PM or by appointment

**Course Information**

Summer 2017, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:05PM-8:55PM

**Course title:** Mind, World, and Knowledge

**Course number:** 1301 A

**Room:** SA 518

**Department:** Philosophy

**Prerequisite(s):** None.

Additional information: Precludes additional credit for PHIL 1006 or PHIL 1501.

**Course Website:**

CULearn will be used for access to the course syllabus, grades, announcements, and discussion boards. It is recommended that students regularly check CULearn for course updates and other information. Students are responsible for keeping current with the information on CULearn. Students must check CULearn regularly for important messages, course information, assignment information, and exam information.

**Course Description**

An introduction to philosophical issues concerning mind, language, knowledge, and the world. Topics may include (but are not limited to): the nature of being, the mental, the external, consciousness, perception, experience, meaning, truth, the nature of knowledge, scientific understanding, how language and thought represent the world.

**Dos and Don'ts**

Do complete the readings, come to class, and complete your assignments on time. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed the required readings. Class attendance is important if you want to succeed in this course. If you are having difficulties, including difficulties completing an assignment on time, talk to me during my office hours. Do not be disruptive during class or use cellular phones during class. A break will be provided during class.

### Course Text

Ramlakhan, N. E. (2017). *A very brief introduction to philosophical issues*. Available as a paperback and e-book on Amazon.ca. or at Haven Bookstore.

Articles: accessed via Google Scholar and Carleton's Library Portal (see schedule).

**Disclaimer:** I reserve the right to change the readings or topics assigned. Changes will not add substantial workload.

### Evaluation

#### TEST 1

**Value:** 15%

**Date:** July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Description:** This test will be in multiple choice, true/false, and short and long answer format. Students will be given partial class time to complete the test (see schedule). Students arriving thirty minutes after the test has started will not be allowed to write the test. See 'Notes' for missed tests.

#### ESSAY

**Value:** 15%

**Due Date:** August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Description:** Topics will be given in class, but students are welcome to write on a topic not given in class. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Papers are to be submitted in class, on or before the due date. Papers can also be submitted via the philosophy drop box located on floor 3A, Paterson Hall. Email submissions are not accepted.

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font Times New Roman, and must not exceed 6 pages (not including a title page and bibliography). Papers should be 4-6 pages in length, and must include a bibliography. Students will be provided with a writing workshop/tutorial (see schedule below).

Late essay submissions will be penalized one full letter grade per day, including weekends (if a B+ paper is handed in a day late, it will receive a C+). If a paper is submitted after 4:15 PM via the philosophy drop, it will be considered submitted the following day. If a paper is submitted after 4:15 PM on a Friday, it will be considered submitted on the following Monday). Late essays will be accepted without penalty only if there is legitimate reason. Extensions may be granted under special circumstances. If you need an extension, you must see the instructor at least one week before the assignment is due. There is no guarantee for an extension. Essays submitted after June August 16<sup>th</sup> will not be accepted (see policy page below).

#### PARTICIPATION

**Value:** 20%

**Description:** This course takes a flipped class approach and an interactive approach to learning. As such, students will be asked to participate during class discussions both individually and in groups. This enhances the learning experience, and allows for students to engage with important course material. Class participation is important if you want to do well in this course.

### **MINI IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS (5 assignments X 5% each)**

**Value:** 25%

**Date:** See course schedule.

**Description:** Students will engage in course material by completing activities/assignments during class time. Assignments will enhance students' abilities to create and analyze arguments, debate theories and ideas, and write a scholarly essay in philosophy. If a student is unable to attend class when assignments are due, they will receive a 0 for the assignment unless verifiable documentation is received (e.g., doctor's note). Upon verified documentation, a make-up assignment will be provided. See 'Notes' section for further information.

As much as possible, I will be using a flipped class approach in which students support each other in learning activities in small groups. For some of the classes, traditional lecturing will be swapped in favour of a peer learning environment. It is in your best interest to attend all classes and participate as much as possible. Some in-class assignments will take the form of group work.

### **TAKE-HOME TEST**

**Value:** 25%

**Due Date:** August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Description:** This test will be in short/long answer format. The test will be distributed on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Students will have until August 25<sup>th</sup> at 4PM to submit their exam electronically on CULearn. Students who submit their test after this deadline will receive a grade of 0. Students are welcome to submit their test starting on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

All deferrals must be submitted to the registrar's office (see policies below).

### **NOTES**

1. The standard time for returning graded tests, assignments, etc. is two weeks from the date of the test or assignment due date. If additional time is needed for grading, announcements will be made in class or posted on the CULearn website.
2. If a disagreement over a grade occurs, the student can appeal the grade to the instructor after having discussed the grade with the TA, if a TA has been assigned to the course. If a TA has not been assigned, the student should speak with the instructor.
3. A make-up test/assignment will be provided only upon presentation of verifiable documentation (e.g., a doctor's note). A failure to provide one will result in a zero. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if a test or assignment is missed. Students must contact the instructor within 72 hours of a missed test or 24 hours of a missed assignment to schedule a make-up. This is the student's responsibility. Arrangements must be made directly with the instructor. There are no exceptions.
4. Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

## Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Overview of course syllabus and class expectations Introduction to philosophy	Ramlakhan, Introduction  Plato, Allegory of the Cave <a href="https://web.stanford.edu/class/ihum40/cave.pdf">https://web.stanford.edu/class/ihum40/cave.pdf</a>  Nozick, R. (2013). The experience machine.
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Unit 1: Knowledge of the world	Ramlakhan, Chapter 1: Knowledge of the world
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Unit 1: Knowledge of the world <b>Activity 1</b>	Ramlakhan, Chapter 1: Knowledge of the world Movie: <i>The Matrix</i>
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Unit 2: Mind and consciousness	Ramlakhan, Chapter 2: Mind and Consciousness
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Unit 2: Mind and consciousness <b>Activity 2</b>	Ramlakhan, Chapter 2: Mind and Consciousness  Nagel, T. (1974). What is it like to be a bat?. The philosophical review, 83(4), 435-450.
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Test (from 6:05-7:45) Essay topics released Writing workshop	No Readings
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Unit 3: Animal consciousness and ethics	Ramlakhan, Chapter 3: Animal consciousness and ethics
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Unit 3: Animal consciousness and ethics <b>Activity 3</b>	Ramlakhan, Chapter 3: Animal consciousness and ethics
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Unit 4: Mind and Language	TBA

August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Unit 5: Mind and morality	<p>Haidt, J. (2001). The emotional dog and its rational tail: A social intuitionist approach to moral judgment. <i>Psychological Review</i>, 108, 814-34.</p> <p>Haidt, J., Bjorklund, F., &amp; Murphy, S. (2000). Moral dumbfounding: when intuition finds no reason. Unpublished manuscript, University of Virginia.</p> <p>Pinker, S. (2008). The Moral Instinct. <i>New York Times</i>. Jan 13</p>
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Unit 5: Mind and morality <b>Activity 4</b> Essays due	<p>Greene, J. D. (2007). Why are VMPFC patients more utilitarian? A dual-process theory of moral judgment explains. <i>Trends in Cognitive Sciences</i>, 11, 322–323.</p> <p>Hutcherson, C. &amp; Gross, J. (2011). The moral emotions: A social–functionalist account of anger, disgust, and contempt. <i>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</i>, 100, 719-737.</p> <p>Seidel, A. &amp; Prinz, J. (2012). Mad and glad: Musically induced emotions have divergent impact on morals. <i>Motiv Emot</i>, 37, 629-637</p>
August 10 <sup>th</sup>	Early perspectives	<p>Epictetus, <i>Handbook</i>          Marcus Aurelius, <i>The Meditations</i>, TBA          Ramlakhan, Chapter 4</p>
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ancient perspectives Take-home exams distributed <b>Activity 5</b>	Ramlakhan, Chapter 4

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 17)

### **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:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- 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 **3 working days** after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within **3 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 12.0, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/academicintegrity/>)

### **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 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/>

**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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send 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 your professor to ensure

accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

### **Important Dates:**

May 1	Classes start.
May 8	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>early</u> summer courses.
May 12	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>full</u> summer courses.
May 19	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from <u>early</u> and <u>full</u> summer courses.
May 22	Statutory holiday, University closed.
June 6	Last day for tests or examinations in <u>early</u> and <u>full</u> summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
June 13	Last day for <u>early</u> summer 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 term work for courses that end on this day. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>early</u> summer courses.
June 19-25	Final examinations.
July 3	Statutory holiday, University closed.
July 4	<u>Late</u> summer courses begin and <u>full</u> summer courses resume.
July 11	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>late</u> summer courses.
July 24	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from <u>late</u> summer courses.
Aug. 2	Last day for tests or examinations in <u>full</u> summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
Aug. 7	Civic holiday, University closed
Aug. 9	Last day for tests or examinations in <u>late</u> summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
Aug. 16	Last day of <u>late</u> and <u>full</u> summer 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 term work for courses that end on this day. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses.
Aug. 19-25	Final examinations.

### **Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 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
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising">www.carleton.ca/academicadvising</a> 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/">http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/</a> 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735