

MIND, WORLD AND KNOWLEDGE

PHIL 1301 – Fall 2015

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays; 4:05-5:25
Venue: University Centre 231

Instructor: Dr. Nils-Frederic Wagner
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Email: nilsfrederic.wagner@carleton.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30 or by appointment
Course Website: Through registration, you will get access to the cuLearn pages for this course. This system will be used for access to announcements and grades, as well as for essay submissions.

Course Description

This course is meant to introduce you to some of the most fundamental aspects of three key areas of philosophy: Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology and Philosophy of Language. This will be done through studying the work of major (mostly contemporary) philosophers. We will be reading about and discussing questions such as: What is the relation between mind and body? Do we persist as one and the same person over time? How do we know anything? How is social reality constructed? How did language begin? What is the meaning of words?

Course Materials

All the readings will be freely available on Ares, the digital reserve system. You can access it through this link: <https://libares01.carleton.ca> (there will be a link on cuLearn that directs you to Ares as well). Also, most of the readings are freely available on the internet.

Course Requirements

You are required to attend class. Discussion is an important part of the coursework and you will need to be there to participate. You are also expected to do all of the assigned readings. Written requirements will involve two in-class midterm exams (the first will be worth 25%; the second will be worth 35%), consisting mainly of short identification questions and short essay questions; and one 4-5 page (1100-1500 words) final take-home essay (40%). The essay must be formatted with a commonly used 12pt serif font (such as Times New Roman), double-spaced with 1-inch margins on all sides and submitted as a word file. Unless otherwise informed, you should submit your essay through the cuLearn course website. Late essay submissions will be penalized one letter step per day. So, for example, if an A paper is handed in a day late, it will receive an A-; if it is handed in two days late, it will receive a B+ and so forth. Late essays will be accepted without penalty only if there is a legitimate reason. You must do all of the written assignments and attend class regularly to get a passing grade. The grade percentages listed above apply only to those who do all of the work. Announcements will be made, assignments given, and materials presented in class. You are responsible to keep track of any material missed due to absence.

Class Schedule, Topics and Readings

The class is divided, roughly, into three thematic priorities; however, all parts are somewhat related and thus overlap to a certain degree. You will get the most out of the lectures if you have the assigned readings done before the corresponding class takes place. Moreover, by building on familiarity with the readings, some of the material presented in class will go beyond what is covered in the readings.

Sep 2, Wed Organizational Matters and Introduction: What is Philosophy?

I. Philosophy of Mind

Sep 4, Fri *Substance Dualism* – René Descartes (1641): Meditations on First Philosophy (excerpt): Meditation I & II.

Sep 7, Mon Statutory holiday, University closed.

Sep 9, Wed *Behaviorism* – Hilary Putnam (1980): Brains and Behavior.

Sep 14, Mon *Computationalism* – John Searle (1980): Minds, Brains and Programs.

Sep 16, Wed *Knowledge Argument* – Frank Jackson (1982): Epiphenomenal Qualia; Frank Jackson (1986): What Mary Didn't Know.

Sep 21, Mon *Subjective Experience* – Thomas Nagel (1974): What Is It Like to Be a Bat?

Sep 23, Wed Midterm Exam (worth 25%).

Sep 28, Mon *Personal Identity* – John Perry (1978): A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality.

Sep 30, Wed *Self and Time* – J. David Velleman (2006): So It Goes.

II. Epistemology

Oct 05, Mon *Knowledge and Judgment* – Plato (369 BC): Theaetetus (excerpt): 200d5-210a.

Oct 07, Wed *Knowledge and Belief* – Edmund Gettier (1963): Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?

Oct 12, Mon Statutory holiday, University closed.

Oct 14, Wed *Virtue Epistemology* – Plato (369 BC): Theaetetus (excerpt): 145c9-146a6; 197a-199d.

Oct 19, Mon *Virtue Epistemology* – John Greco (1993): Virtues and Vices of Virtue Epistemology.

Oct 21, Wed Midterm Exam (worth 35%).

Oct 26-30 Fall break, No classes.

Nov 02, Mon *Epistemology and Naturalism* – Willard Van Orman Quine (1969): Epistemology Naturalized.

- Nov 04, Wed *Epistemology and Naturalism* – Jaegwon Kim (1988): What Is Naturalized Epistemology?
- Nov 09, Mon *Social Ontology* – John Searle (2006): Social Ontology: Some Basic Principles.
- Nov 11, Wed *Social Ontology* – Richard A. Shweder (2006): John Searle on a Witch Hunt: A Commentary on John R. Searle's Essay Social Ontology: Some Basic Principles; John Searle (2006): Reality and Relativism: Shweder on a Which? Hunt.

III. Philosophy of Language

- Nov 16, Mon *Linguistic Turn* – Moritz Schlick (1967): The Future of Philosophy.
- Nov 18, Wed *Theory of Meaning* – Donald Davidson (1967): Truth and Meaning.
- Nov 23, Mon *Theory of Meaning* – Paul Grice (1967): Logic and Conversation.
- Nov 25, Wed *Speech Acts* – John Searle (1975): Indirect Speech Acts.
- Nov 30, Mon *Language Faculty* – Marc Hauser, Noam Chomsky, W. Tecumseh Fitch (2002): The Faculty of Language: What Is It, Who Has It, and How Did It Evolve?
- Dec 02, Wed *Language as Biological Adaptation* – Steven Pinker (2003): Language as an Adaptation to the Cognitive Niche.
- Dec 7, Mon Final Discussion; Final Take-Home Essay assigned, requirements discussed.
- Dec 21, Mon Final Take-Home Essay (worth 40%) due.

Bibliography

- Davidson, D. (1967). Truth and Meaning. *Synthese*, 17(1): 304-323.
- Descartes, R. (1641/2008). *Meditations on First Philosophy* (pp. 1-25). Trans. M. Moriarty. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Gettier, E. (1963). Is Justified True Belief Knowledge? *Analysis*, 23(6): 121-123.
- Greco, J. (1993). Virtues and Vices of Virtue Epistemology. *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 23(3): 413-443.
- Grice, H. P. (1967). Logic and Conversation. In H. P. Grice Ed. *Studies in the Ways of Words* (pp. 22-40). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Hauser, M. D., Chomsky, N. & Fitch, T. (2002). The Faculty of Language: What Is It, Who Has It, and How Did It Evolve? *Science*, 298(5598): 1569-1579.
- Jackson, F. (1982). Epiphenomenal Qualia. *Philosophical Quarterly*, 32(127): 127-136.
- Jackson, F. (1986). What Mary Didn't Know. *Journal of Philosophy*, 83(5): 291-295.
- Kim, J. (1988). What is Naturalized Epistemology? In J. E. Tomberlin Ed. *Philosophical Perspectives*, 2 (pp. 381-406). Asascadero, CA: Ridgeview Publishing Co.
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- Perry, J. (1978). *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company.

- Pinker, S. (2003). Language as an Adaptation to the Cognitive Niche. In M. H. Christiansen and S. Kirby Eds. *Language Evolution: States of the Art* (pp. 16-38). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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- Putnam, H. (1980). Brains and Behavior. In N. Block Ed. *Readings in Philosophy of Psychology*, Volume One (pp. 24-37). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Quine, W. (1969). Epistemology Naturalized. In W. Quine. *Ontological Relativity and Other Essays* (pp. 69-90). New York: Columbia University Press.
- Schlick, M. (1967). The Future of Philosophy. In R. Rorty Ed. *The Linguistic Turn: Recent Essays in Philosophical Method* (pp. 43-53). Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Searle, J. (1975). Indirect Speech Acts. In P. Cole and J. L. Morgan Eds. *Syntax and Semantics*, Volume 3: Speech Acts (pp. 59-82). Waltham, MA: Academic Press.
- Searle, J. (1980). Minds, Brains and Programs. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 3(3): 417-424.
- Searle, J. (2006). Reality and Relativism: Shweder on a Which? Hunt. *Anthropological Theory*, 6(1): 112-121.
- Searle, J. (2006). Social Ontology: Some Basic Principles. *Anthropological Theory*, 6(1): 12-29.
- Shweder, R. (2006). John Searle on a Witch Hunt: A Commentary on John R. Searle's Essay Social Ontology: Some Basic Principles. *Anthropological Theory*, 6(1): 89-111.
- Velleman, J. D. (2006). So It Goes. *The Amherst Lecture in Philosophy*, 1: 1-23.
<<http://www.amherstlecture.org/velleman2006/>>.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2015-16)

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 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://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

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 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:

Sept. 2	Classes start.
Sept. 4	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Sept. 7	Labour Day - University closed.
Sept. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 7	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 15-19	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 25	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter 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 term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735