

**Introduction to Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 2501 A – Fall 2017**

Lectures: Mon/Wed 16:30-18:00

Classroom: 101 Azrieli Theatre

Professor: Christopher McGrath

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Office: 3A54 Paterson

Office Hours: Tue/Thu 10:00-11:30 or by appointment

Class Description:

An introduction to major philosophical issues concerning human cognition. Topics may include: the relation of mind to body, knowledge of other minds, the relation of mental states to personhood and personal identity, mental illness, consciousness, intentionality, action, mental realism.

Our approach to this course will focus on the mind-body problem, which is usually treated as the foundational or most typical problem in the philosophy of mind. This problem refers to a host of issues surrounding three questions: What is the mind? What is the body? What is the relationship between the mind and the body? Different answers to these questions have often been influential on our understanding of physics and psychology, personal identity, and free will and responsibility. Most broadly, the mind-body problem can be approached as a characteristically modern formulation of a perennial philosophical question: What kind of a thing is humanity, and what place do we have in the world?

The aim of this course will be to try clarify the foundational problems, positions, and arguments which have most contributed to our understanding of what the mind-body problem is and how it might be answered.

To do this, we will begin with the major contributions made during the early modern period. Although we can find philosophical work relevant to the mind-body problem in the ancient and medieval periods, it is typical to characterize at least much of the usual sense we have of the mind-body problem in terms of a certain Cartesian heritage that begins in early modernity. So our study will begin by trying to clarify this heritage, and by surveying what possible solutions to the mind-body problem most naturally present themselves, given this Cartesian picture. Next, we will consider some transitional developments spanning the late eighteenth to early twentieth centuries, which can help situate how much contemporary work has responded to this Cartesian heritage—looking at a broadly Kantian tradition stretching from Kant to logical positivism. The last part of the course will focus on this contemporary work, or at least on the major developments in twentieth century philosophy that provide the categories and framework for how philosophers today often understand the mind-body problem. In this context, we will examine reductivist and non-reductivist approaches to the mind, the problem of consciousness, and eliminativism.

Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments:

#	Date	Lecture	Readings
1	Sep 06	Introduction to the Course	
I. The Foundations of the Mind-Body Problem in the Early Modern Period			
2	Sep 11	The Background to the Mind-Body Problem I	Descartes (I)
3	Sep 13	The Background to the Mind-Body Problem II	Locke

4	Sep 18	Dualism I	Descartes (II)
5	Sep 20	Dualism II	Descartes (III)
6	Sep 25	Idealism and Materialism I	Berkeley
7	Sep 27	Idealism and Materialism II	d'Holbach
8	Oct 02	Neutral Monism	Spinoza
9	Oct 04	Review	
	Oct 09	Statutory Holiday - No Class	
10	Oct 11	Test #1	
II. The Transition from the Early Modern Period to the Contemporary Period			
11	Oct 16	Skepticism	Kant
12	Oct 18	Early Psychology and the Mind-Body Problem	Helmholtz
	Oct 23	Fall Break – No Class	
	Oct 25	Fall Break – No Class	
III. The Mind-Body Problem in Contemporary Philosophy			
13	Oct 30	Conceptualism	Carnap
14	Nov 01	Behaviorism and Identity Theory II	Wittgenstein
15	Nov 06	Behaviorism and Identity Theory II	Smart
16	Nov 08	Non-Reductivism I	Putnam
17	Nov 13	Non-Reductivism II	Fodor
18	Nov 15	Review	
19	Nov 20	Test #2	
20	Nov 22	The Problem of Consciousness I	Nagel

21	Nov 27	The Problem of Consciousness II	Jackson
22	Nov 29	Eliminativism I	Rorty
23	Dec 04	Eliminativism II	Lycan and Pappas
24	Dec 06	Concluding Remarks	Sellars
25	Dec 08*	Review	
	Dec 10-22	Final Exam Period	

Assessment:

Final marks will be based on three tests, the first two held in class and the third held during the final exam period. These tests will be non-cumulative, each covering only that material since the previous test, so that each covers about one third of the course, and will involve short answer questions derived from the readings as they are covered in class. The tests will be equally weighted, so that each contributes a third of your final mark. Consult the schedule of lectures for the dates of the in-class tests.

Note: Alternative testing dates will be provided in the case of documented medical problems interrupting your studies, or similar unavoidable events. To obtain an alternate date, you must contact the professor as soon as is feasible, once you are aware of the problem.

Readings:

Note: Readings for the first part of the course are in the public domain and can be accessed online. For the second part of the course, readings not available for distribution in this way will be posted to the CULearn page or distributed in class. We may adjust the reading schedule as the term progresses, according to our ability to adequately cover the material.

Descartes (I), *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Meditation I

<http://www.wright.edu/~charles.taylor/descartes/mede.html>

and *The World or Treatise on Light*

Chapter One

<http://www.princeton.edu/~hos/mike/texts/descartes/world/worldfr.htm>

Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

Book Two: Chapter VIII, Sections 1-3 and 7-25

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/10615/10615-h/10615-h.htm>

Descartes (II), *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Meditation II, Meditation V: Sections 1-6, and Meditation VI: Sections 1-14

<http://www.wright.edu/~charles.taylor/descartes/mede.html>

Descartes (III), *The Passions of the Soul*

The First Part: Articles 1-4, 10-13, 17-19, 23-25, 30-32, and 34

http://net.cgu.edu/philosophy/descartes/Passions_Part_One.html

Berkeley, *Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*

Of the Principles of Human Knowledge: Sections 1-27

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4723>

d'Holbach, *The System of Nature*
Chapters VII and VIII

<http://www.ftarchives.net/holbach/system/0syscontents.htm>

Spinoza, *Ethics*

Part I: Definitions III-V

Part II: Prop VII, Prop XII, Prop XIII (up to "Axiom I"), Prop XXI

Part III: Prop II

<http://capone.mtsu.edu/rbombard/RB/Spinoza/ethica-front.html>

Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*

The Psychological Ideas (Sections 46-49)

http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/kant1783_3.pdf

Helmholtz, (selections from) "The facts in perception" (Cohen and Elkana [eds.], *Epistemological Writings*, 115-128)

Carnap, *The Logical Structure of the World*

Sections 160-162 and 166-169

Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*

Sections 243-308

Smart, "Sensations and brain processes" (*Philosophical Review* 68[2], 141-156)

Putnam, "Psychological predicates" (Capitan and Merrill [eds.], *Art, Mind, and Religion*, 37-48)

Fodor, "Special sciences (Or: The disunity of science as a working hypothesis)" (*Synthese* 28[2], 97-115)

Nagel, "What is it like to be a bat?" (*Philosophical Review* 83[4], 435-450)

Jackson, "Epiphenomenal qualia" (*Philosophical Quarterly* 32, 127-136) and "What Mary didn't know" (*Journal of Philosophy* 83[5], 291-295)

Rorty, "Mind-body identity, privacy, and categories" (*Review of Metaphysics* 19[1], 24-54)

Lycan and Pappas, "What is eliminative materialism?" (*Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 50[2], 149-159)

Sellars, "Philosophy and the Scientific Image of Man" (Colodny [ed.], *Frontiers of Science and Philosophy*, 35-78)

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2017-18)

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 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/academicregulationoftheuniversity/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:

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. 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.
Oct. 9	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 23-27	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for summative or final examinations in Fall term courses 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.
Jan. 8	Classes begin.
Jan. 19	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.
Feb. 19	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 19-23	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 27	Last day for summative or final examinations in Winter term or two-term courses before the official examination period.
Mar. 30	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 11	Last day of two-term and Winter term classes. Classes follow a Friday schedule. 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. 14-26	Final examinations for Winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 26	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