

PHIL 2501
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Term: Fall 2011

Meetings: Mondays & Wednesdays: 8:35-9:55

Venue: Southam Hall 416

Instructor: Jordan Dodd

Office: Paterson Hall 329B

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30-4:00

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Course Website: via <http://jordandodd.wordpress.com>

1. Course description

This course is an introduction to the core questions of philosophy of mind: *What are mental phenomena?*, *How are minds related brains?*, *What is consciousness?*, and *What do all mental things have in common?* We will focus on contemporary work on these questions (in philosophy, that means work by people who are either still alive, or just died recently). No prior experience in philosophy is required.

Prerequisite: a course in philosophy or second-year standing.

2. Texts

The main text is Tim Crane, *Elements of Mind: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind* (Oxford UP). It's available at the Carleton University Bookstore. There is also a copy on reserve at MacOdrum Library.

All other readings will be available on, or linked to via, WebCT.

3. Course Requirements

All of the evaluation in this course will involve writing. All the writing will either consist of writing *very very short things* or *pretty short things*. Specifically, the marking scheme is:

10% Mini-papers

3 Essays, each worth 30%

Mini-papers

Six mini-papers (.75-1 page each) are required. These are to be very brief critical evaluations of arguments in the assigned readings. *You may write no more than one in any given week.* You

must hand in your mini-paper *at the start of the class in which we address the reading that your mini-paper addresses*. (See the WebCT handout on mini-papers for more information about them.)

Essays

Three short essays are required. Although the length of the essays is kind of flexible, the main touchstone range should be c.1000-1200. We'll talk about these essays when they get closer.

Essay#1 will be assigned on October 12th...and is **due Wednesday, October 26th**

Essay#2 will be assigned on November 2nd ...and is **due Wednesday, November 16th**

Essay#3 will be assigned on December 5th ... and is **due Wednesday, December 21st**

4. Respect

Please be respectful of your classmates (and me!) at all times during classes. This includes, for example, not talking when others are, and – obviously – not espousing any sort of bigoted views. If I feel that you're being disruptive, I'll kick you out.

5. Cell phones

Please turn off your cell phones before class starts. It's really annoying when they make noises during class. If for some reason you're expecting an urgent call, just mention this to me before class.

6. Email

I do generally respond to emails ... but usually not quickly. In other words, you shouldn't think of me as being 'on call' via email at all times. One reason to note this is that you *should not* put off contacting me about pressing matters until the last minute. Odds are that last minute emails won't reach my attention in time.

8. Cheats!

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty are stupid. Don't do either, on anything you write for this course (or any other course!) The penalty for plagiarism will be 0% on that assignment with no opportunity to rewrite, and an incident report will be sent to the Dean's Office (which will determine further action).

Be sure that you are familiar with the university plagiarism rules, which can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar, Academic Regulations, section 14.3, pg. 56 – or online: <http://www.carleton.ca/cu0809uc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>

9. Feedback

The university asks for your feedback on this course at the end of the semester. That sort of feedback has its place, but it doesn't really help me change things on the fly – namely, in ways that will help you, as opposed to just helping future students. So give me feedback: after class, via email, around campus, whenever. Tell me that I should go faster or slower on certain material, that such and such topic should be covered in more detail, that our discussion of such and such wasn't clear – or tell me that you think we are going a good speed, that such and such topic was covered in good detail, that our discussion of such and such topic was nice and clear. The moral of the story is that feedback, be it positive, negative, or some shade in between, is welcome and appreciated.

10. Miscellaneous Info (about formatting, references, and late penalties)

(1) All mini-papers and essays must be handed in type written, in double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font with 1" margins on all sides. Don't put a title page on anything – but do put your name, your student number, the course number, and my name *at the start of everything you hand in*, like this:

Student's Name, Student Number
Course Number, Course Instructor's Name

(2) Bibliographies and footnotes/parenthetical notation are not required for the mini-papers. But they are certainly required for the essays.

(3) Late papers will be penalized one letter step per day late. So: If an 'A' paper is handed in a day late, it will receive an 'A-', and if it's handed in two days late, it will receive a 'B+'.... Late essays will only be accepted without penalty if there are well-documented, legitimate reason.

11. Check out the official policies

Various official Carleton U. and Department of Philosophy policies are laid out in the 'University Polices' document that's linked to on the course website. Some of it is presented in lawyer-speak. But, one way or another, you're responsible for knowing all of the material that's presented there. That requirement just follows from being a student in this class.

