

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

PHIL 2501 – Summer 2016

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:05-8:55 p.m.
Venue: TBA

Instructor: Dr. Nils-Frederic Wagner
Office: 329B Paterson Hall (Department of Philosophy)
Email: nilsfrederic.wagner@carleton.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 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 Philosophy of Mind through studying the work of major (mostly contemporary) philosophers. In due consideration of empirical evidence, we'll be reading about and discussing questions such as: What is the relation between mind and body? What is consciousness, and how does it come about? Can the subjective experience of mental states be entirely explained by the complex neural activities of our brains? What about near-death experiences? Do we have free will?—and if so, how is it related to moral responsibility?

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 also be a link on cuLearn that directs you to Ares). Most of the readings are freely available on the internet as well.

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 involve two in-class midterm exams (the first is worth 25%; the second is worth 35%), consisting mainly of short identification questions and short essay questions; and one 4-6 page (1100-1500 words) final take-home essay (worth 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 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 into three thematic priorities; however, all parts are related and overlap to some extent. 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.

The Mind/Body Problem

- Jul 5, Tue Organizational Matters and Introduction: What is Philosophy of Mind?
Substance Dualism – René Descartes (1641): Meditations on First Philosophy
(excerpt): Meditation I & II.
- Jul 7, Thu *Materialism* – John Smart (1959): Sensations and Brain Processes.
Behaviorism – Hilary Putnam (1980): Brains and Behavior.
- Jul 12, Tue *Computationalism* – Alan Turing (1950): Computing Machinery and Intelligence.
John Searle (1980): Minds, Brains and Programs.
- Jul 14, Thu *Embodied Cognition* – Marya Schechtman (1997): The Brain/Body Problem.
Emergentism – John Searle (2007): Biological Naturalism.
- Jul 19, Tue First Midterm Exam.

Consciousness and Qualitative Experience

- Jul 21, Thu *Qualia* – Thomas Nagel (1974): What Is it Like to Be a Bat?
Animal Consciousness – Kathleen Akins (1993): What Is it Like to be Boring and
Myopic?
Sean Allen-Hermanson (2015): Strong Neurophilosophy and the Matter of Bat
Consciousness.
- Jul 26, Tue *Knowledge Argument* – Frank Jackson (1982): Epiphenomenal Qualia.
Frank Jackson (1986): What Mary Didn't Know.
- Jul 28, Thu *Consciousness & Neuroscience* – David Chalmers (1995): Facing up to the
Problem of Consciousness.
Patricia Churchland (1996): The Hornswoggle Problem.
- Aug 2, Tue Second Midterm Exam.
- Aug 4, Thu *Consciousness & Near-Death Experience* – Pim van Lommel (2013): Non-Local
Consciousness: A Concept Based on Scientific Research on Near-Death
Experiences During Cardiac Arrest.
Benjamin Mitchell-Yellin & John Fischer (2014): The Near-Death Experience
Argument Against Physicalism.

Free Will and Moral Responsibility

- Aug 9, Tue *Compatibilism* – John Smart (1961): Free Will, Praise, and Blame.
Moral Responsibility – Harry Frankfurt (1969): Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility.
- Aug 11, Thu *Reactive Attitudes* – Peter Strawson (1962): Freedom and Resentment.
Incompatibilism – Galen Strawson (1994): The Impossibility of Moral Responsibility.
- Aug 16, Tue *Neuroscience of Free Will* – Benjamin Libet (1999): Do We Have Free Will?
Tim Bayne (2011): Libet and the Case for Free Will Scepticism.

Final Discussion; Final Take-Home Essay assigned, requirements discussed.

- Aug 25, Thu Final Take-Home Essay due.

Bibliography

- Akins, K. (1993). What is it Like to be Boring and Myopic? In B. Dahlbom (Ed.). *Dennett and His Critics* (pp. 124-160). Oxford: Blackwell.
- Allen-Hermanson, S. (2015). Strong Neurophilosophy and the Matter of Bat Consciousness: A Case Study. *Erkenntnis*, 80(1), 57-76.
- Bayne, T. (2011). Libet and the Case for Free Will Scepticism. In Richard Swinburne (Ed.). *Free Will and Modern Science* (pp. 25-46). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Chalmers, D. (1995). Facing up to the Problem of Consciousness. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 2(3), 200-219.
- Churchland, P. (1996). The Hornswoggle Problem. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 3(5-6), 402-408.
- Descartes, R. (1641/2008). *Meditations on First Philosophy* (pp. 1-25). Trans. Michael Moriarty. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Frankfurt, H. (1969). Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility. *Journal of Philosophy*, 66(3), 829-839.
- 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.
- Libet, B. (1999). Do We Have Free Will? *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 6(8-9), 47-57.
- Mitchell-Yellin, B. & Fischer, J. (2014). The Near-Death Experience Argument Against Physicalism: A Critique. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 21(7-8), 158-183.
- Nagel, T. (1974). What Is it Like to Be a Bat? *Philosophical Review*, 83(4), 435-450.
- Putnam, H. (1980). Brains and Behavior. In Ned Block (Ed.). *Readings in Philosophy of Psychology*, Volume One (pp. 24-37). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Schechtman, M. (1997). The Brain/Body Problem. *Philosophical Psychology*, 10(2), 149-164.
- Searle, J. (1980). Minds, Brains and Programs. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 3(3), 417-424.
- Searle, J. (2007). Biological Naturalism. In Max Velmans and Susan Schneider (Eds.). *The Blackwell Companion to Consciousness* (pp. 325-335). Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Smart, J. (1959). Sensations and Brain Processes. *Philosophical Review*, 68(2), 141-156.
- Smart, J. (1961). Free Will, Praise, and Blame. *Mind*, 70(279), 291-306.

- Strawson, G. (1994). The Impossibility of Moral Responsibility. *Philosophical Studies*, 75(1-2), 5-24.
- Strawson, P. (1962). Freedom and Resentment. *Proceedings of the British Academy*, 48, 1-25.
- Turing, A. (1950). Computing Machinery and Intelligence. *Mind*, 59(236), 433-460.
- Van Lommel, P. (2013). Non-Local Consciousness: A Concept Based on Scientific Research on Near-Death Experiences During Cardiac Arrest. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 20(1-2), 7-48.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 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:

May 2	Classes start.
May 9	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>early</u> summer courses.
May 13	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>full</u> summer courses.
May 20	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from early and full summer courses.
May 23	Statutory holiday, university closed.
June 7	Last day for tests or examinations in early and full Summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
June 14	Last day for early 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.
June 14	Last day for academic withdrawal from early summer courses.
June 17-23	Final examinations.
July 1	Statutory holiday, university closed.
July 4	Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume.
July 11	Last day for registration and course changes for late summer courses.
July 25	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from late summer courses.
Aug. 1	Statutory holiday, university closed
Aug. 2	Last day for tests or examinations in <u>full</u> Summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
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 for late and full 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.
Aug. 16	Last day for academic withdrawal from late summer and full summer courses.
Aug. 19-25	Final examinations.

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