

Introduction to Philosophy of Mind
Fall 2016
Syllabus

Instructor Information

Course instructor: Nalini E. Ramlakhan

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30PM-2:30PM, Thursdays
11:30AM-12:30PM

Course Information

Fall 2016, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:35PM-12:55PM

Course title: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind

Course number: 2501 A

Room: TBA

Department: Philosophy

Prerequisite(s): A course in philosophy or second-year standing.

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 major philosophical issues concerning human cognition. Topics will include (but are not limited to): the relation of mind to body, knowledge of other minds, the relation of mental states to personal identity, mental illness, the nature of consciousness, free will, and moral responsibility.

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.

Course Texts

Made available on *Ares*

Selections from:

Blackmore, Susan. *Consciousness* (2nd edition). New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Perry, John (ed.). *Personal Identity*. London: University of California Press, 1975.

Searle, John. *Mind: A Brief Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Siderits, Mark. *Buddhism as Philosophy*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2007.

Articles: See syllabus schedule below

Any changes to the reading material will be announced on CULearn.

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

Evaluation

MIDTERM EXAM

Value: 15%

Date: October 19th

Description: This exam will be in multiple choice, true/false, and short and long answer format. Students will be given the entire class time to complete the exam. Students who arrive after thirty minutes into the examination will not be allowed to write the exam.

RESPONSE PAPER

Value: 10%

Date: October 5th

Description: A paper in response to a particular issue discussed in class. 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 must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font Times New Roman, and must not exceed three pages. Papers should be 2-3 pages in length.

MINI IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS (10 assignments X 5% each)

Value: 50%

Dates: 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.

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.

ESSAY**Value:** 25%**Date:** December 9th

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 must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font Times New Roman, and must not exceed 8 pages. Papers should be 6-8 pages in length, and must include a bibliography. Students will be provided with writing workshops/tutorials (see schedule below). Extensions granted under certain circumstances. Requests for extensions must be discussed with the course instructor no later than November 30th. A request does not guarantee an extension.

Any 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.
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 makeup. 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
September 7 th , 2016	Syllabus overview General introduction *Response paper guidelines discussed*	Searle, Introduction and Chapter 1
September 9 th	Dualism and materialism	Searle, Chapters 2 and 3
September 14 th and 16 th	The hard problem of consciousness *In-class activity 1 (September 16 th)*	Nagel (1974), "What is it like to be a bat?" <i>Recommended readings:</i> Chalmers (1995), "Facing up to the problem of consciousness" Searle (1980), "Minds, brains, and programs"
September 21 st and 23 rd	Consciousness and reality: Skepticism *In-class activity 2 (September 23 rd)*	Blackmore, Section 2
September 28 th and 30 th	Consciousness and personal identity: General introduction *In-class activity 3 (September 28 th)*	Searle, Chapter 11 Blackmore, Section 3
October 5 th	Consciousness and personal identity: Locke *Response papers due*	Locke, Of Identity and Diversity (Perry, Chapters 2 and 7)
October 7 th and 12 th	Consciousness and personal identity: Personal identity and mental health	Blackmore, Section 3 Locke, Of Identity and Diversity (Perry, Chapters 2 and 7)
October 14 th	Consciousness and personal identity: Personal identity and mental health *In-class activity 4*	Blackmore, Section 3 Locke, Of Identity and Diversity (Perry, Chapters 2 and 7)
October 19 th	Midterm exam	No Readings

October 21 st	Consciousness and personal identity: Reductionist theories of personhood	Hume on identity (Perry, Chapters 10-12), Hume, Selection from Book I, Part 4, Section 6 of <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/pi.htm Siderits, Chapters 2 and 3
November 2 nd and 4 th	Consciousness and personal identity: Reductionist theories of personhood *In class activity 5*	Siderits, Chapters 2 and 3 Parfit, <i>Reasons and Persons</i> , Chapters 11 and 15, electronic resource accessed on Carleton.ca/library
November 9 th and 11 th	Consciousness, free will, and moral responsibility (with regard to personal identity) *In-class activity 6 (November 11 th)*	Siderits, Chapter 4 Frankfurt (1969), "Alternate possibilities and moral responsibility" Frankfurt (1971), "Freedom of the will and the concept of a person"
November 16 th and 18 th	Writing tutorial: How to write a paper in philosophy *Essay topics distributed* *In-class activity 7 (November 18 th)	No Readings
November 23 rd	Consciousness, free will, and moral responsibility	Greenspan (2003), "Responsible psychopaths" Wolf (1987), "Sanity and the metaphysics of responsibility"
November 25 th and 30 th	Consciousness, free will, and moral responsibility *In class activities 8 and 9 (both days)*	Greenspan (2003), "Responsible psychopaths" Wolf (1987), "Sanity and the metaphysics of responsibility"
December 2 nd and 7 th	The nature of consciousness: First person approaches to consciousness	Blackmore, Section 9
December 9 th	Taking stock *In-class activity 10* *Essay due*	No Readings

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2016-17)

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 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. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	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. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	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. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	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. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	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