

## PHIL 1301A – MIND, WORLD AND KNOWLEDGE [0.5 CREDIT]

### COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructeur: Chris Genovesi

Office: N/A

Email: [chris.genovesi@carleton.ca](mailto:chris.genovesi@carleton.ca)

TA: N/A

### COURSE INFORMATION:

Term: Fall 2021 (Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021-Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021)

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Department: Philosophy

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### COURSE OVERVIEW

Introduction to a variety of philosophical works, including contemporary, on such topics as: the nature of being, the mental, the external, consciousness, perception, experience, meaning, truth, the nature of knowledge, scientific understanding, and how language and thought represent the world.

Precludes additional credit for PHIL 1006 (no longer offered), PHIL 1501 (no longer offered).

Specifically, this course is designed to acquaint students with the history and development of rationalism beginning with Descartes and ending with Chomsky. Students will also become acquainted with recent language research as to the role played by language in dealing with longstanding Cartesian issues.

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### OTHER INFO

The course will take place online. All course lectures are pre-recorded and are available for students to access online. The professor will host live discussions (details to follow in "announcements"). Although attendance is to live discussions is not mandatory, students are encouraged to attend. The PowerPoint slides on which lectures are based are posted online, including course assignments, midterm, and exam instructions. Students are required to submit all course assignments through Brightspace. Because the course is asynchronous, students are strongly encouraged to set aside time each week to listen to the lectures, stay up-to-date, and develop critical questions and comments regarding the readings and lectures. Students are encouraged to email the professor should they have any questions, comments, or concerns. For general information regarding your academic semester, you can visit <https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>.

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### TEXTS

#### Required Texts:

1. Chomsky, N., 1966, *Cartesian Linguistics: A Chapter in the History of Rationalist Thought*, Harper & Row, New York
2. Chomsky, N., 2000, *New Horizons in the Study of Language and Mind*, Cambridge UP, Cambridge
3. Descartes' *Meditations, Objections to Meditations, and Descartes' Replies, Discourse on the Method* free at: <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/authors/descartes>
4. Leibniz's *New Essays, Monadology* free at <https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/authors/leibniz>

**NB:** 1&2 can be ordered online (amazon, google, etc.)

#### Secondary resources (bold identifies the most useful):

1. Antony, L. M. & Hornstein, N. (eds.), 2003, *Chomsky and His Critics*, Blackwell, Oxford
2. Calvin, W.-H. & Bickerton, D., 2000, *Lingua ex Machine*, MIT, Cambridge

3. Cottingham, J., 1986 *Descartes*, Blackwell, Oxford
4. Jolley, N. 2005 *Leibniz*. Routledge, London
5. McGilvray, J. 1999, *Chomsky: Language, Mind, and Politics*, Polity Press, Cambridge
6. Smith, N. 1999, Chomsky: Ideas and Ideals, Cambridge UP, Cambridge
7. Wilson, C. 2003, Descartes's Meditations: An Introduction, Cambridge UP, Cambridge

Other resources:

1. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <https://plato.stanford.edu/>
2. Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy <https://www.iep.utm.edu/>

## EVALUATION

DETAILS	GRADE	DUE DATE
Midterm	40%	Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Final	60%	Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021

### MIDTERM

Students are required to write an essay approximately 1500 words in length (not including the bibliography [APA style]). The essay involves analyzing and evaluating central issues in the course. A guideline for the paper is posted on Brightspace that includes topics for students to choose from, along with guidelines for writing, formatting, and submitting the paper. Please see due date above.

### FINAL

Students will answer 4 questions out of 20 potential questions that will be posted on Brightspace during the exam period (beginning Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021). Students will critically respond to questions clearly and concisely. More details will be posted. Please see due date above.

## TOPICS

**NB:** Each topic (see below) is comprised of 2-3 pre-recorded lectures. Students are required to read the primary readings. Secondary readings are not required. Rather, they are there for students who wish to further enrich their philosophical experience.

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| 1. Introduction to course and terminology  | Primary reading: Descartes, Meditation 4, 5 and 6<br>Secondary reading: Cottingham, ch. 4  |
| 2. Descartes: Philosophical methodology<br>Primary reading: Descartes, Meditation 1 and 2<br>Secondary reading: Cottingham, ch. 1, ch. 2 | Secondary reading: Cottingham, ch. 4   |
| 3. Descartes: God and His Existence<br>Primary reading: Descartes, Meditation 3 and 4<br>Secondary reading: Cottingham, ch. 3            | 5. Leibniz: Metaphysics<br>Primary reading: Leibniz, Monadology<br>Secondary reading: Jolley, Leibniz  |
| 4. Descartes: Ideas and Reality  | 6. Leibniz: Mind, Knowledge, and Ideas<br>Primary reading: Leibniz, New Essays, Introduction and ch. 1<br>Secondary reading: Jolley, Leibniz |

7. Mechanism and Linguistic Creativity  
Primary reading: Arnauld & Nicole, Port Royal Grammar  
Secondary reading: Chomsky, Cartesian Linguistics (+ Introduction)  
McGilvray, ch. 2, ch. 3
8. Universal Grammar  
Primary reading: Arnauld & Nicole, Port Royal Grammar  
Chomsky, Cartesian Linguistics  
Secondary reading: McGilvray, ch. 2, ch. 3
9. Res Cogitans and Dualism  
Primary reading: Descartes' Meditations, Fourth set of Objections (Arnauld) + Descartes' Reply  
Chomsky, New Horizons, ch. 4  
Secondary reading: Cottingham, ch. 5
10. Dualism and its Problems  
Primary reading: Chomsky, New Horizons, ch. 1, ch. 4  
Secondary reading: Louise & Horenstein (eds.), Chomsky and His Critics: Lycan's article (ch. 1) + Chomsky's reply  
Secondary reading: Cottingham, ch. 5
11. The Poverty of the Stimulus Argument  
Primary reading: Chomsky, New Horizons, ch. 6, ch. 7  
Secondary reading: McGilvray, ch. 3, ch. 4
12. Language Origins and Development  
Primary reading: Chomsky, New Horizons, ch. 3, ch. 5  
Secondary reading: Calvin & Bickerton, Lingua ex Machina

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## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2021-22)

### **Assignments:**

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

### **Evaluation:**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### **Deferrals for Term Work:**

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

### **Deferrals for Final Exams:**

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

### **Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or 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 [EDC](#) website.
- *Academic accommodations for students with disabilities:* The [Paul Merton 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](mailto: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 test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *Accommodation for Student Activities:* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

### **Important Dates:**

Sept. 8	Classes start.
Sept. 22	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. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 11	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 25-29	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 26	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 10	Last day of fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</b> 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. 11-23	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. 23	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 10	Classes begin.
Jan. 24	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. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 21	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 22-25	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 29	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Apr. 12	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. <b>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</b> 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. 13 No classes or examinations take place.
- Apr. 14-28 Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
- Apr. 15 Statutory holiday. University closed.
- Apr. 28 All take-home examinations are due.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:

[www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)

520-2110

Registrar's Office:

[www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)

520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:

[www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising)

520-7850

Writing Services:

<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

520-3822

MacOdrum Library

<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>

520-2735