

PHIL 2501: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind (Fall 2021)

Instructor: Lesley Jamieson

Contact: LesleyJamieson@cunet.carleton.ca

Department: Philosophy

Office Hours: Virtual, available by appointment

Precludes: additional credit for PHIL 2502

Prerequisites: a course in philosophy or second-year standing

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Course Description:

In this course, we will study classic texts in Cartesian substance dualism, behaviourism, identity theory, and functionalism, attending to their explanatory strengths and weaknesses. Some major questions we will investigate include:

- Is the human mind something inner and distinct from the physical body? If so, how do these two substances interact?
- Can we have knowledge of other minds, and in what sense is the mind something private or inner?
- What are mental states and can they be realized by machines?
- Can physicalist or functionalist accounts of mental states explain what it's like to subjectively experience mental states?
- Where are the emotions and how do they fit into our cognitive lives?

Delivery:

This class will be taught remotely; in addition to weekly readings, the course will be comprised of asynchronous lectures posted to Brightspace and synchronous Q&A sessions conducted over Zoom.

- **Lectures:** I will post short lectures each week to guide you through the assigned readings for the week. These lectures will offer context to support you in your own reading, helping you to: understand the significance of philosophers' views in their historical context; grasp the norms and assumptions that shape how philosophers approach particular questions; and understand how their arguments work. These will be available by the Monday timetable slot each week.
- **Q&A Tutorial:** During the Wednesday, 11:35am-1:05pm timeslot, there will be an informal, optional Zoom meeting for discussion of the readings or assignments.
 - **What to expect?** These sessions will begin with a short introduction, providing a general overview of the text and lectures to refresh everyone's memory; we'll then have a structured discussion about: what we find perplexing in the texts; the strengths of the position or arguments; and weaknesses of the position or arguments.

Texts:

No text is required for this course. Readings will be made available online through the library's e-reserves (ARES) which can be accessed via the Brightspace site under the "course readings and resources" tab.

Learning Outcomes:

To successfully complete this course, students will:

- develop a critical understanding of some major positions in the philosophy of mind, seeing both their explanatory strengths and weaknesses.
- learn to identify, charitably reconstruct, and critically assess a variety of types of philosophical argument.
- develop an expanded philosophical vocabulary.

These outcomes will be evaluated over the course of the semester through three online tests comprised of multiple choice and long answer questions, and one take-home final exam.

Evaluation:

Assignments must be submitted electronically via Brightspace. Late assignments will be penalized by a deduction of one grade per day (e.g., 1 day late, A becomes A-; 3 days late, A becomes B)

20%, Module 1 Quiz

20%, Module 2 Quiz

20%, Module 3 Quiz

(Quizzes will involve multiple choice, short and long answer questions, and will test your power to use new vocabulary, identify and distinguish philosophical views, and outline major arguments).

40% Take-home final exam (2 short essay questions, to be selected from 4 options)

Course Calendar:

(Brightspace Lectures posted by Sunday evening, Zoom Q&A sessions held Wednesdays)

Course Introduction, September 8th on Zoom**Module 1: Substance Dualism and Mind-Body Interactionism**

- Week 1 (Sept. 13/15)
 - Brightspace Lectures: Introduction to Descartes on Mind, Body, and Nature
 - Reading: Descartes, First and Second Meditations
- Week 2 (Sept. 20/22)
 - Brightspace Lectures: Cartesian Dualism and the Passions
 - Reading: Descartes, *Passions of the Soul*
 - Supplementary: Margaret Atherton "Cartesian Reason and Gendered Reason"

Module 1 Quiz, September 24th (to be completed during a 3-hour window of your choosing)

Module 2: The Privacy of Mind and Human Behaviour

- Week 3 (Sept. 27/29)
 - Brightspace Lectures: Introduction to Behaviourism
 - Readings: Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind* Chapter 1: “Descartes’ Myth”
- Week 4 (Oct. 4/6)
 - Brightspace Lectures: Knowledge of Other Minds
 - Reading: Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind* Chapter 6: “Self-Knowledge”
- Week 5 (Oct. 11/13)
 - Brightspace Lectures: The Privacy of the Mind Reconsidered
 - Reading: Iris Murdoch “Thinking and Language”

Module 2 Quiz, October 15th (to be completed during a 3-hour window of your choosing)

Module 3: What are Mental States

- Week 6 (Oct. 18/20)
 - Brightspace Lectures: Introduction to Identity Theory
 - Reading: J. J. C. Smart “Sensations and Brain Processes”
- Week 7 (Oct. 25/27) No Readings/Fall Break
- Week 8 (Nov. 1/3)
 - Brightspace Lectures: Challenging Identity Theory
 - Reading: Nagel “What is it Like to be a Bat?”
- Week 9 (Nov. 8/10)
 - Brightspace Lectures: Functionalism and Developments in Artificial Intelligence
 - Reading: Hilary Putnam “The Nature of Mental States”
 - Supplementary: Alvin Turing “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”
- Week 10 (Nov. 15/17)
 - Brightspace Lectures: Searle’s Challenge to Functionalism
 - Reading: Searle “Minds, Brains, and Programs”

Module 3 Quiz, November 19th (to be completed during a 3-hour window of your choosing)

Module 4: The Emotions, Reason, and the Body

- Week 11 (Nov. 22/24)
 - Brightspace Lectures: Are Emotions Judgments?
 - Reading: Robert Solomon “On Emotions as Judgments”
- Week 12 (Nov. 29/Dec. 1)
 - Brightspace Lectures: What about Feelings?
 - Reading: Michael Stocker “Psychic Feelings, Their Importance and Irreducibility”
- Week 13 (Dec. 6/8)
 - Brightspace Lectures: The Emotions and Evolutionary Continuity
 - Reading: Jennifer Robinson “Startle” (E-R)

Take-home Final Exam will be posted on December 8th, will be due by December 13th, 7pm.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the [Paul Menton Centre website](#).

Accommodation for 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. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit the [Equity and Inclusive Communities website](#).

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. For more details, see the [Senate Policy on Accommodation for Student Activities \(PDF, 25KB\)](#).

Accommodation for 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.

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](#))

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:

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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 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 test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
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- *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. 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. 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. 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. 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
520-2110

Registrar's Office:
www.carleton.ca/registrar
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:
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