

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2012–2013

**Philosophy 3410G: Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Mind**

Winter term 2016  
Time: M 1:30-2:30, W 1:30-3:30  
Room: TC-343

Instructor: Angela Mendelovici  
OH TBA  
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## Description

This course investigates the nature of mental phenomena from a philosophical perspective. We will address issues such as the relationship between mental states and physical states, the explanatory and causal roles of mental states, consciousness, and mental representation. We will focus on topics that are not covered in Philosophy 2400F/G. Emphasis will be given to contemporary readings. Prerequisite: Philosophy 2400F/G.

## Texts

- David J. Chalmers (2002). *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. Oxford University Press.

## Requirements

- 15% - 10 responses (150–500 words)
- 15% - 10 in-class activities
- 30% - Midterm paper (900–1300 words)
- 40% - Final paper (1200–1600 words)

You will be provided **paper topics** in advance. However, you may choose to write on your own topic, provided it is approved by the instructor at least a week in advance of the paper due date. **Late papers** will be penalized by 3% per day late, including weekends, up to a maximum of 50%. Papers must be **submitted** through WebCT and to Turnitin.com.

**Responses** must be submitted in person at the beginning of class each Monday, starting the second week of class. Responses should briefly explain and

react to a central point in the week's readings. Each response you complete is worth 1.5% of your final grade, up to a maximum of 15%. This means you can miss 2 responses without penalty. Late responses will not be accepted except in extraordinary and properly documented circumstances in which you miss more than two days of class on which responses are due. Responses may be used as a basis for class activities, and can form the basis of your midterm or final papers.

You are expected to attend class, be attentive, and respectfully and constructively engage with peers during class activities and discussions. If this proves challenging, or, for whatever reason, you feel uncomfortable in class, please talk to your instructor.

## Electronic devices

The use of laptops and tablets is permitted in class. Out of courtesy to your instructor and especially your fellow students, please limit the use of your devices to taking notes and looking up information relevant to the discussion at hand. Phones should not be used in class except in special circumstances, e.g. to take notes. If you wish to record lectures, please ask your instructor for permission.

## Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to explain and evaluate the main philosophical arguments and positions discussed in this course both orally and in writing. Students should acquire and/or improve upon general skills useful for critically engaging with philosophical ideas as well as other pursuits, including analyzing, and critically evaluating arguments, skills involved in effective oral and written communication, and fruitful engagement with peers.

## Department policies

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

## **Mental health**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

July 2, 2015