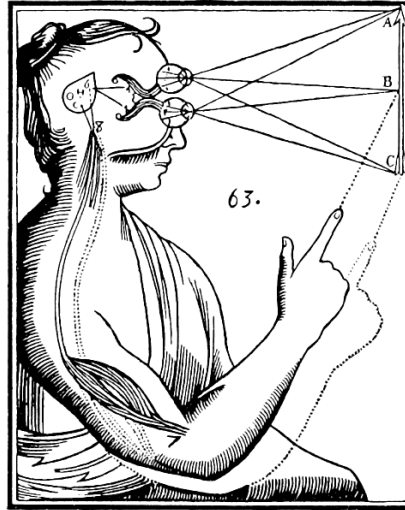


THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2016-17

PHIL2050F: The Scientific Search for the Mind



Fall Term 2016
Tues. 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Thurs. 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Location: TBA

Instructor: Jacqueline Sullivan
Office: 4151 Stevenson Hall
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 1-2 p.m.
519-661-2111 x85755
jsulli29@uwo.ca

DESCRIPTION

In his treatise *Meditations on First Philosophy* (1641), the French philosopher René Descartes put forward the idea that “minds”, in so far as they are *thinking* things, differ from physical bodies, which do not think. Descartes’ claim that the mind and body are separate substances—a view referred to as “substance dualism”—prompted philosophers and scientists to wonder: *How can minds be studied scientifically if they are not a part of the physical world?*

In this course, we will consider a variety of different answers to this question by critically evaluating areas of philosophy and science that have emerged historically to understand the nature of the mind and its place in the physical world. We will begin by considering Cartesian dualism and the mechanical philosophy as well as the empiricism of John Locke. The sciences that will be then be the focus of our analysis include: phrenology & localization theory (e.g., Francis Gall, Pierre Flourens, Paul Broca Carl Wernicke), early physiology (e.g., Helmholtz), psychophysics (e.g., Fechner), experimental psychology (Wundt), Gestalt psychology (e.g., Titchener), evolutionary psychology (Darwin on emotions in man and animals), intelligence testing (Galton), Jamesian psychology, learning theory and behaviorism (Pavlov, Watson and Skinner) Freudian psychoanalysis, later physiology (e.g., Lashley, Penfield), developmental psychology (e.g., Binet & Piaget), cognitive psychology (Neisser), artificial intelligence (Turing machine), functional neuroanatomy and cognitive neuroscience. We will begin by considering a set of conceptual tools on offer in philosophy of science and philosophy of mind and will then use these tools to guide our analysis of each of the sciences we will consider.

TEXTS

- (1) Fancher, Raymond E. & Rutherford, Alexandra (2011). *Pioneers of Psychology*, 4th Edition. W.W. Norton & Company.
- (2) Additional readings will be made available as pdfs on Owl.

OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will have developed a detailed understanding of a variety of scientific approaches to studying and understanding the mind, the ability to critically evaluate these approaches, and the capacity to formulate and defend their own positions with respect to such approaches.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance & Participation:	20%
Exam1 (November 1 in class):	20%
Paper 1 (4-5 pages; Due October 18):	20%
Paper 2 (4-5 pages; Due November 29):	20%
Exam 2 (December 6 in class) :	20%

AUDIT

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://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/index.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.

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.

Tentative Schedule of Classes

(Subject to change during course of term)

September 8 (Th) – Course Introduction & Overview

September 13 (T) – Some analytic and conceptual tools for understanding scientific inquiry
F&R, Introduction, pp. 3-13

September 15 (Th) – Descartes' Mechanical Philosophy
F&R, pp. 15-35
Descartes, *Treatise on Man* (Owl)

September 20 (T) – Descartes' Dualism
F&R, pp. 36-49
Descartes, excerpts from *Meditations on First Philosophy*

September 22 (Th) – John Locke's empiricism
F&R, pp. 51-68
Locke, excerpts from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

September 27 (T) – Phrenology and Early Localization theory (Gall, Flourens, Broca, Wernicke)
F&R, pp. 95-118
Paper 1 Questions Distributed

September 29 (Th) – Physiologists of Mind – Lashley to Penfield
F&R, pp. 118-127

October 4 (T) – Early physiology to psychophysics (Helmholtz, Fechner)
F&R, pp. 139-152

October 6 (Th) – Early physiology to psychophysics
F&R, pp. 163-171

October 11 (T) – Gestalt Psychology; Wundt and experimental psychology
F&R, pp. 172-185; F&R, pp. 189-214

October 13 (Th) – Experimental psychology (continued)
F&R, pp. 214-229

October 18 (T) – Charles Darwin's evolutionary psychology
F&R, pp. 231-267
*******Paper 1 Due*******

Tentative Schedule of Classes (cont'd)
(Subject to change during course of term)

October 20 (Th) – The Measurement of Mind: Galton
F&R, pp. 269-303

October 25 (T) – Review Session for Exam 1

October 27 (Th) – Fall Study Break

November 1 (T) – Exam 1 (in-class)

November 3 (Th) – William James and Psychology in America
F&R, pp. 305-345

November 8 (T) – Psychology as the Science of Behavior: Pavlov & Watson
F&R, pp. 347-360; F&R, pp. 360-379
Pavlov, Excerpts from *Conditioned Reflexes*
Excerpts from Watson's Behaviorism
Paper 2 Questions Distributed

November 10 (Th) – Psychology as the Science of Human Behavior: Skinner and Operant
Conditioning
F&R pp. 379- 399
Excerpts from Skinner's *Science and Human Behavior* and *Walden Too*

November 15 (T) – From Mesmerism to Charcot
F&R, pp. 401-424

November 17 (Th) – Freudian Psychoanalytic theory – Part 1
F&R, pp. 455-488
Excerpts from Freud's *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*

November 22 (T) - – Lecture 25: Freudian Psychoanalytic theory – Part 2
F&R, pp. 488-503
Excerpts from Freud's *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*

November 24 (Th) - Lecture 26: Binet and Intelligence Testing
F&R, pp. 563-584

November 29 (T) – Lecture 27: Jean Piaget and the psychology of the child
F&R, pp. 585-601
Minds and Machines
F&R, pp. 603-635

*******Paper 2 Due*******

Tentative Schedule of Classes (cont'd)
(Subject to change during course of term)

December 1 (Th) – Review for Exam 2

December 6 (T) – Exam 2 (in-class)