

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015/2016

Philosophy 3410G: Philosophy of Mind

Winter term 2019
Time: TU 9:30-11:30, TH 9:30-10:30
Room: UCC 54A

Instructor: Prof. David Bourget
OH TH 10:30-11:30, StH 3143
amende15@uwo.ca

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. Emphasis will be given to contemporary readings that go beyond the material in 2400F/G. Prerequisite: Philosophy 2400F/G.

Texts

- Readings available online through a university connection

Requirements

- 15% - 10 responses (150–500 words)
- 5% - 5 in-class activities
- 35% - Midterm paper (900–1300 words)
- 45% - 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 me 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 OWL 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. Responses are graded on a pass/fail basis. 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 2 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.

There will be at least 7 in class activities. To get full points in this category, you must complete 5 of them. They are graded on a pass/fail basis. This means you can miss 2 activities without penalty. You will not be able to make up for missed activities except in extraordinary and properly documented circumstances in which you miss more than 2 days of class on which there are activities.

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 me.

Electronic devices

The use of laptops and tablets is permitted in class. Out of courtesy to me 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 me for permission.

Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to explain and evaluate the main philosophical arguments and positions discussed in this course both orally and in writing. You 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

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.