

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2020-21

Philosophy 2400F: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind - 001 (online/virtual)

<p>Fall of 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Tuesdays, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm</u> (asynchronous). Student reviews online material on their own that will be posted weekly.• <u>Thursdays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm</u> (synchronous). Student participates in a weekly live/online Zoom session.	<p>Instructor: Dr. Jonathan P. Marsh Virtual Office. Office Hours: TBA E-mail: jmarsh26@uwo.ca Every attempt will be made to respond to your e-mails within 24 business hours, on M-F, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.</p>
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DESCRIPTION

Controversies about the moral status of animals, embryos and PVS patients, not to mention the possibility of life beyond the grave, often trace back to a more fundamental controversy in the philosophy of mind: *What are minds?* This course is about this latter controversy.

UNIT 1 begins by discussing two strikingly different pictures of the human mind that go back to the ancient world, viz., materialism and dualism. It then explores how these views were modified and contested in early modern Europe. UNIT 2 examines some more recent, i.e. 20th century, theories of mind and some difficulties they have faced (mostly having to do with pain, zombies, colours and/or bats). UNIT 3 surveys a variety of contemporary topics, including consciousness, simulated worlds and extended cognition.

Please note: as this is an introductory course, no background knowledge of these topics, or of the philosophy of mind, more generally, is expected or presupposed.

TEXT

Kind, Amy. *Philosophy of Mind: The Basics*. Routledge. 2020. ISBN 9781138807822 [Available in ebook format](#).

- Any additional readings will be made available via OWL.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam (**facial presentation is optional**)



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester, you will



1. be acquainted with some of the major traditional and contemporary problems, figures, positions and controversies in the philosophy of mind and how they relate to other philosophical topics, e.g. free will, personal identity and death (KNOWLEDGE);
2. have presented and defended your own thoughts on a core issue in this domain (PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT);
3. have cultivated intellectual virtues pertaining to argumentation, dialogue, interpretation, research and clear writing (to help with outcomes 1 and 2) (SKILLS).

EVALUATIVE REQUIREMENTS

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>	<u>Corresponding Objectives</u>
• 1. Philosophy Podcast (in groups)	15%	October 15, 2020	2 & 3 (above)
• 2. Midterm Exam	35%	Nov 10, 2020	1
• 3. Essay	30%	Dec 1, 2020.	1,2 & 3
• 4. Active and Informed Participation	20 %		1,2 & 3

Good philosophy requires conversation. Consequently, in addition to prepared materials/recordings that you will review on your own time, this course contains weekly live sessions (e.g. tutorials, workshops and/or dialogues), which will take place over Zoom, typically, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, on Thursdays. See OWL's tentative schedule for details.

- *Note: if you are working in a different time zone, and are unable to attend our live online sessions, please e-mail me during the first week of class. I would be pleased to accommodate you.*

All written assignments, including your midterm, must be submitted through the assignments tab (on OWL), where you will find detailed instructions. To help you with assignment 3, we will also have a virtual workshop on writing philosophy papers.

RECORDING:



Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Also, please obtain permission before recording any features of our sessions. Out of respect for student privacy, and your instructor's intellectual property, please (i) do not share recordings with anyone and (ii) delete them as soon as the semester ends. Recordings are only for registered members of the class.

AUDIT

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

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES¹

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.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed here. https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

SELF- REPORTED ABSENCE FORM

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Sub-Heading_322

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. For 3000- or 4000-level courses in which such a graded assessment is impracticable, the instructor(s) must obtain an exemption from this policy from the Dean and this exemption must be noted on the corresponding course syllabus. In rare instances and at the Dean's discretion, other courses could receive a similar exemption, which also must be noted in the course syllabus.

¹ With an added note re: religious accommodations

COURSE ASSIGNMENT

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.