

## PHIL 362 - Spring 2024 Philosophy of Mind

**Instructor:** Eric Hochstein

**CRN:** 22546

**Time:** Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 1:30 pm – 2:20 pm.

**Place:** ELL 061

**Office Hours:** (in Clearihue B330): Wednesday 2:00-4:00 pm; and by appointment

**Email:** ehochstein@uvic.ca

**\*Please Note\* It is recommended, but not required, that you take Phil 260: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind prior to this course.**

**Description** This course will explore philosophical questions and debates surrounding current scientific understandings of the mind. Cognitive science takes the brain to be a computer, and the mind to be the set of programs that the brain runs. If this story is true, it raises a number of philosophical questions. These include: What *kind* of computer is the brain? What are the tools we use to study this brain, and what are their limitations? Is the mind limited to the brain, or can it extend beyond it? How can we tell what sort of mental states animals have?

**Structure:** The course comprises three lectures (50min) per week, the contents of which will be based on the course readings. The course will proceed primarily through lectures and discussions.

**Intellectual property of materials on the LMS website:** Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to the LMS website are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria. Do not circulate this material or post it to note-sharing sites without my permission. Posting course materials to note-sharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the Policy on Academic Integrity ([https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk\\_0xsM\\_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies](https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies)). Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

**Evaluation:** The course will be graded as follows:

- 2 mid-terms, worth 15% and 25%
- A term paper 25% (3-10 double-spaced pages);
- A final examination worth 35%.

**Policy on assignments, tests, and term papers:** Late papers will receive a deduction of 5% per day until handed in. If any student will be unable to take a test or exam, they should consult the University's in-course academic concession policy:

<https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-concessions-accommodations/request-for-academic-concession/index.php#ipn-request-an-in-course-extension>

**Important to Note:** It is expected that students will prepare for and attend class regularly. Students are encouraged to consult the instructor with any problems or concerns about the course **early** in the semester. Also, **constantly checking and using your cell phone during class is extremely distracting. Please refrain from doing so.**

**Grading System:**

Percentages	Letter Grade	Grade Point
90 – 100	A+	9
85 – 89	A	8
80 – 84	A-	7

An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically **superior**, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students

77 – 79	B+	6
73 – 76	B	5
70 – 72	B-	4

A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a **good** comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material.

65 – 69	C+	3
60 – 64	C	2

A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an **adequate** comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.

50 – 59	D	1
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A D is earned by work that indicates **minimal** command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.

0 – 49	F	0
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F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is **inadequate** and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.

Interpretation of these grade definitions is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade during the course that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open-minded manner. Rest assured that if you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department.

For additional information regarding grades, please see the most recent (September 2021) edition of the Uvic Undergraduate Calendar.

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to percentage scores. Letter grades and grade point scores are listed purely for reference.

Final examinations are the property of Uvic and are not returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office according to Uvic procedures and regulations.

Uvic is committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all members. Further information regarding Uvic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in the Uvic calendar, but if you have any particular concerns in our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

#### **Note on Avoidance of Academic Offenses:**

All students registered in the course are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, it will be acknowledged by disciplinary penalties. If you need help in learning how to avoid academic offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. You can find the university's Policy on Academic Integrity here:

[https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk\\_0xsM\\_V](https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V)

If you are seeking editing help, please note that the university has recently adopted a strict view about seeking the help of others for editing. They say (this can be found in the link above):

An editor is an individual or service, other than the instructor or supervisory committee, who manipulates, revises, corrects or alters a student's written or non-written work.

The use of an editor, whether paid or unpaid, is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization. The instructor should specify the extent of editing that is being authorized. Review by fellow students and tutoring that do

not include editing are normally permitted.

### **Tentative Schedule of Readings:**

#### Week 1 (Jan 9, Jan 10 & Jan 12): The Computational Theory of Mind

Readings:

- José Bermúdez, “Algorithms and Turing Machines”
- José Bermúdez, “The Physical Symbol System Hypothesis”

#### Week 2 (Jan 16, Jan 17 & Jan 19): The Language of Thought Hypothesis

Readings:

- José Bermúdez, “Language of Thought Part 1”
- José Bermúdez, “Language of Thought Part 2”

#### Week 3 (Jan 23, Jan 24 & Jan 26): The Person/Subperson Distinction

Readings:

- Zoe Drayson, “The Personal/Subpersonal Distinction”

#### Week 4 (Jan 30, Jan 31 & Feb 2): How Can We Study the Brain Effectively? (Part 1)

Readings:

- “An Easy Guide to Neuron Anatomy with Diagrams”  
<https://www.healthline.com/health/neurons>
- Nancy Lovering, “Types of Brain Imaging Techniques”  
<https://psychcentral.com/lib/types-of-brain-imaging-techniques>

#### Week 5 (Feb 6, Feb 7 & Feb 9): How Can We Study the Brain Effectively? (Part 2)

##### **Midterm 1 (Feb 7)**

Readings:

- Colin Klein, “Images Are Not the Evidence in Neuroimaging”

#### Week 6 (Feb 13, Feb 14 & Feb 16): The Connectionism Movement

Readings:

- Paul Thagard, “Connections”

#### Week 7 (Feb 20, Feb 21 & Feb 23): Reading Week

**No classes**

Readings:

- None

#### Week 8 (Feb 27, Feb 28 & Mar 1): Functional Localization and the Brain

##### **Term Paper Assigned Mar 1**

Readings:

- Joe McCaffrey, “Evolving Concepts of Functional Localization”

#### Week 9 (Mar 5, Mar 6 & Mar 8): Emotions

Readings:

- Lisa Barrett, “The Myth of Universal Emotions”

Week 10 (Mar 12, Mar 13 & Mar 15): Embodied and Extended Cognition

**Mid-term 2 (Mar 15)**

Readings:

- Jane Foster & Karen-Ann Neufeld, “Gut–brain axis: how the microbiome influences anxiety and depression”
- Andy Clark & David Chalmers, “The Extended Mind Hypothesis”

Week 11 (Mar 19): Animal Minds

**I will be out of town March 20 & 22. Lectures for these classes will be pre-recorded and uploaded to the course website.**

Readings:

- Povinelli, Bering & Giambrone, “Toward a Science of Other Minds: Escaping the Argument by Analogy”

Week 12 (Mar 26, Mar 27 & Mar 29): Dynamical Systems Theory

**Term Paper Due March 29**

Readings:

- Tim Van Gelder, "What Might Cognition Be, If Not Computation?"

Week 13 (Apr 2, April 3 & Apr 5): Spill Over and Review

No Readings

**Note for students with disabilities:**

The Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>) is a fantastic resource that collaborates with all academic departments to help arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with them at the beginning of each academic term.