*Please Note: This is a tentative syllabus that may change between now and the start of the January 2027 semester.

PHIL 362 - Spring 2027
Philosophy of Mind

Instructor: Eric Hochstein
CRN: 22707
Time: Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Fridays from 11:30 am – 12:20 pm.
Place: CLE C112
Office Hours: (in Clearihue B330)**:** Tuesday, 1:00-2:30 pm; and by appointment
Email: ehochstein@uvic.ca

We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

***Please Note* It is highly recommended 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. These include: What are the tools we use to study this brain, and what are their limitations? What do they tell us about the mind? If the brain is a computer (as modern Cognitive Science claims), then what *kind* of computer is it? Is the mind limited to the brain, or can it extend beyond it? How can we tell what sort of mental states non-human animals have?

The purpose of the course is to provide training in, and understanding of, current philosophical debates within contemporary cognitive science, as well as the ways in which scientific domains like neuroscience and psychology study the mind and the philosophical principles that drive them. Students are also trained in how to write a philosophy paper, and to express complex ideas in a clear and straightforward manner.

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). 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 writing quizzes (5% each)
- 2 mid-terms, the first worth 20%, and the second worth 30%
- **Either:** A term paper & presentation **OR** a cumulative final examination (40%).

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, **cell phones and laptops are not permitted in class (with the exception of justified medical/health reasons).**

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

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

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

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 6 & Jan 8): The Computational Theory of Mind
Readings:

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

Week 2 (Jan 12, Jan 13 & Jan 15): The Language of Thought Hypothesis
Readings:

- José Bermúdez, "Language of Thought Part 1"
- José Bermúdez, "Language of Thought Part 2"

Week 3 (Jan 19, Jan 20 & Jan 22): The Person/Subperson Distinction
Readings:

- Zoe Drayson, "The Personal/Subpersonal Distinction"

Week 4 (Jan 26, Jan 27 & Jan 29: 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 2, Feb 3 & Feb 5): How Can We Study the Brain Effectively? (Part 2)
Midterm 1 (Feb 5)
Readings:

- Colin Klein, "Images Are Not the Evidence in Neuroimaging"

Week 6 (Feb 9, Feb 10 & Feb 12): The Connectionism Movement
Readings:

- Paul Thagard, "Connections"

Week 7 (Feb 16, Feb 17 & Feb 19): Reading Week
No classes
Readings:

- None

Week 8 (Feb 23, Feb 24 & Feb 26): Functional Localization and the Brain
Term Paper Assigned Feb 26
Readings:

- Joe McCaffrey, "Evolving Concepts of Functional Localization"

Week 9 (Mar 2, Mar 3 & Mar 5): What are Emotions?
Readings:

- Lisa Barrett, "The Myth of Universal Emotions"

Week 10 (Mar 9, Mar 10 & Mar 12): Embodied and Extended Cognition
Mid-term 2 (Mar 12)
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 16, Mar 17 & March 19): Relationship Between Psychology and Neuroscience Revisited
Readings:

- Daniel Dennett, "Intentional System's Theory"

Week 12 (Mar 23, Mar 24 & Mar 26): Animal Minds
Term Paper Due March 26
Readings:

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

Week 13 (Mar 30, Mar 31 & Apr 2): Presentations
Paper Presentations

Week 14 (Apr 6 & Apr 7): Presentations
Paper Presentations

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> 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.
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> Review by fellow students and tutoring that do not include editing are normally permitted. In addition to consulting with their instructors, students are encouraged to seek review of and feedback on their work that prompts them to evaluate the work and make changes themselves.

IMPORTANT: Chat GPT and similar technologies are not permitted for this course. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. It is each student's responsibility to know the University's regulations in this regard. The Policy on Academic Integrity is published in the University Calendar. You can also consult the Libraries' plagiarism guide or the Tri-Faculty Standards for Professional Behavior for Students, which draws together a number of existing UVic policies in one place for ease of reference. Professionalism is expected from all students enrolled in courses in the Faculty of Humanities. As part of professionalism, students, faculty and staff are expected to be familiar with University policies, including the Tri-Faculty Standards.

This course is governed by UVic's policies on student behaviour and adheres to its commitment to Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment. All members of our class—myself, our T.A., and all students—have the right to experience and the responsibility to help create such an environment. Professionalism is expected from all students enrolled in courses in the Tri-Faculty; these standards for professional behaviour apply to interactions both in person and online. Please see also information on University expectations regarding Student Conduct and policies regarding.

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.

Additional Student Resources:

1. UVic Learn Anywhere. UVic Learn Anywhere is the primary learning resource for students. It offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.
2. Library resources. Information for students wishing to use the UVic library.
3. Indigenous student services
4. Academic Skills Centre
5. Learning Strategist Program
6. Academic Concession Regulations
7. Academic Concessions and Accommodations
8. Academic accommodation & access for students with disabilities – Policy AC1205
9. Student wellness resources.
10. Ombudsperson. A resource to help resolve disputes or complaints.
11. Other student groups and resources.

University Statements and Policies

1. University Calendar – "Information for all students"
2. Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment
3. Accommodation of Religious Observance
4. Student Conduct and Non-Academic Student Misconduct
5. Accessibility
6. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
7. Equity and Human Rights
8. Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response
9. Discrimination and Harassment Policy