PHIL 260 A01 - Fall 2019
Introduction to Philosophy of Mind

Instructor: Eric Hochstein
CRN: 12485
Time: Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 11:30 PM – 12:20 PM
Place: Clearihue Building C112
Office Hours (in Clearihue B330): Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 pm; and by appointment
Email: ehochstein@uvic.ca

Description: This course will examine fundamental philosophical questions regarding the nature of the mind. Specifically: What is the relationship between the mind and the body? Is the mind nothing more than the brain, or is it something distinct? Is the brain a kind of computer? What is consciousness, and what is required for a scientific explanation of it?

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.

Readings for the class will all be uploaded onto the course website.

Evaluation: The course will be graded as follows:
- 2 in-class mid-terms, worth 15% and 25%
- A term paper 25% (3-6 double-spaced pages);
- A final examination worth 35%.

Policy on assignments, tests, and term papers: The term paper is due in class, in hard copy, on the announced deadline. Late papers will receive a deduction of 5% per day until handed in. Any exam missed without documentation of illness or family emergency will receive a 0.

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.

Grading System:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 – 89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77 – 79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73 – 76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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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. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.

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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65 – 69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 64</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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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.

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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50 – 59</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 49</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 pp. 51-53 of the most recent (September 2018) 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 (pp. 49-51 of the calendar).

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 (p. 15), but if you have any particular concerns in our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Tentative Schedule of Readings:**

**Week 1 (September 4 & 6): Introduction and Basics**
No Readings for This Week

**Week 2 (September 10, 11 & 13): Substance Dualism**
Readings:
- Descartes, R. “Meditations on First Philosophy” (II and VI) p.10-21
- Descartes, R. “Passions of the Soul” p.21-24

**Week 3 (September 17, 18 & 20): Behaviourism**
Readings:
- Ryle, G. “Descartes’ Myth” p.32-39
- Bermúdez, J. “The reaction against behaviorism in psychology”

**Week 4 (September 24, 25 & 27): Type-Identity Theory**
Readings:
- Smart, J.J.C. “Sensations and Brain Processes”

**Week 5 (October 1, 2 & 4): The Cognitive Revolution (Computationalism)**
**Midterm 1: Oct 4th**
Readings:
- Bermúdez, J. “Algorithms and Turing Machines”
- Bermúdez, J. “The Physical Symbol System Hypothesis”

**Week 6 (October 8, 9 & 11): Functionalism**
Readings:
- Levin, J. “Functionalism”

**Week 7 (October 15, 16 & 18): Artificial Intelligence**
**Term Paper Assigned Oct 15**
Readings:
- Searle, J. “Minds, Brains and Programs”

**Week 8 (October 22, 23 & 25): Intentionality**
Readings:
• Boden, M. “Intentionality and physical systems.”

Week 9 (October 29, October 30 & November 1): Reductionism
Readings:

Week 10 (November 5, 6 & 8): Consciousness
Midterm 2: November 5th
Readings:
• Blackmore, S. “What is it like to be...?”

Week 11 (November 12, 13 & 15): Consciousness (Part 2)
No Additional Readings for This Week
Term Paper Due Nov 15
READING WEEK: No class Tuesday, November 12
READING WEEK: No class Wednesday, November 13

Week 12 (November 19, 20 & 22): Embodied & Extended Cognition
Readings:
• Clark, A. & Chalmers, D., “The Extended Mind”

Week 13 (November 26, 27 & 29): Dynamic Systems Theory
Readings:
• Gelder, T. “What might cognition be, if not computation?”

Week 14 (December 3) Spill over and Review
No Additional Readings for This Week
NO CLASS DECEMBER 4th: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Classes and exams cancelled from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

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:
http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html
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.

**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.