

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINES		
TERM: Fall 2015	COURSE NO: PHIL 430	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE NAME: Philosophy of Mind	
OFFICE: E-MAIL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
OFFICE HOURS:		

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through Moodle-based on-line or other activities for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

Classes will be lecture-discussion format, with as much emphasis on discussion as the topic and student preparation (motivation?) will allow. We may, on occasion, break into small groups for student led problem solving.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework including PHIL 102 or 230 and 3 additional credits of 100- or 200-level PHIL.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The human mind is, perhaps, *the* most complex, extraordinary, and mysterious entity in the known universe. Somehow, so most psychologists now believe, 100 trillion neuronal connections produces our experience of the exquisite colours of the rainbow, the intensity of pain, the feeling of falling in love, and so much else besides. This course surveys some of the key issues philosophers have identified facing our attempts to grapple with and understand this most enigmatic of things. It examines what mental phenomena are, and how they relate to the physical (or material) realm. More generally, it attempts to understand what we are - that is, are we merely physical things, are we both physical and mental (or spiritual), or something else entirely? Central questions examined in this course include: What exactly *is* a mind? Is it a physical thing (such as a brain), a process, an emergent property of a complex system, or perhaps even simply an illusion? What is consciousness? Is it possible, even in principle, to explain mental phenomena (such as what it is like to feel pain) in purely physical terms? How do our beliefs, hopes, fears and other thoughts get to be about certain specific things?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:

- An ability to accurately and clearly explain the key philosophical themes in the philosophy of mind.
- An enhanced understanding of the major philosophical theories and the positions in contemporary philosophy of mind.
- An ability to thoughtfully and critically discuss abstract philosophical questions about the mind and its place in nature.
- An enhanced confidence and ability at critically challenging often uncritically accepted assumptions, including their own assumptions or beliefs.
- An enhanced general ability to understand and critically examine complex lines of reasoning and to construct and express, verbally and in writing, such lines of reasoning.

COURSE WEBSITE:

The course will be managed through Moodle. Passkey: Cambridge

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Chalmers, David. *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. OUP. 2002.

Supplementary material will be made available online via Moodle.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will be expected to contribute critically and constructively to in class discussion and debate and to challenge, where appropriate, the arguments and claims of others. Online activities will allow students to demonstrate both their understanding of the course material and a capacity for critical and original thinking through a series of forum-based responses to questions raised through the course. Essays will further examine these skills in greater depth.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

The final grade for the course will be made up of the following: class attendance and participation, online activities, reading quizzes, and two essays.

Attendance and participation:	10%
Online Activities:	15%
Reading quizzes:	20%
First essay:	25%
<u>Second Essay:</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total:	100%

GRADE PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend regularly, to be punctual, to contribute to discussions, and to behave appropriately in the classroom.

Also, students are responsible for all announcements made and for noting all assessment deadlines and test dates. Any broadcast email messages will be sent to students' @my.capilanou.ca email addresses. It is the student's responsibility to check for messages.

Late Assignments/Missed exams: Make-up exams or assignment extensions are given at the discretion of the instructor and generally only in medical emergencies or cases of

severe personal crisis. Documentation (e.g., doctor's note) establishing the reasons for the missed assignment or exam will usually be required. You should notify the instructor *in advance* if you will miss an assignment deadline or an exam. Any reasons given after a missed exam or assignment deadline that could have been given beforehand will not be accepted as grounds for make-up exam or assignment extension. Unless otherwise arranged, no work will be accepted after the final lecture.

English Usage: It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Proper English usage is essential to the clear presentation of one's ideas. Thus, poor grammar, spelling, punctuation, or lack of structure seriously affect the clarity and readability of the submitted work, and will result in a lower grade.

Incomplete Grades: Given at the discretion of the instructor. Generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. If given, a minimum of 50% of assessed work must be completed by the final exam.

Electronic Devices: No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc...) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all cell phones and pagers and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.

Schedule*

	Topic	Readings
Lecture 1	Introduction: The many problems of mind	
Lecture 2	Dualism <i>Reading quiz 1</i>	Descartes: <i>Meditations of First Philosophy (II and VI)</i> Smullyan: <i>An Unfortunate Dualist</i>
Lecture	Behaviourism	Ryle: <i>Descartes' Myth</i> Putnam: <i>Brains and Behaviour</i>
Lecture 4	Mind-Brain Identity Theory <i>Reading quiz 2</i>	Place: <i>Is Consciousness a Brain Process?</i>
Lecture 5	Functionalism <i>Reading quiz 3</i>	Putnam: <i>The Nature of Mental States</i> Block: <i>Troubles with Functionalism</i>
Lecture 6	Consciousness <i>Reading quiz 4</i>	Block: <i>Concepts of Consciousness</i> Chalmers: <i>Consciousness and its Place in Nature</i>
Lecture 7	Zombies and Modal Arguments <i>Reading quiz 5</i>	Kripke: <i>Naming and Necessity (excerpt)</i> Grover-Maxwell: <i>Rigid Designators and Mind-Brain identity</i>
Lecture 8	The Knowledge Argument <i>Reading quiz 6</i>	Jackson: <i>Epiphenomenal Qualia</i> Lewis: <i>What Experience Teaches</i>
Lecture 9	The Explanatory Gap <i>Reading quiz 7</i>	Levine: <i>Materialism and Qualia</i> McGinn: <i>Can we Solve the Mind-Body Problem?</i>
Lecture 10	Anti-Reductionism <i>Reading quiz 8</i>	Broad: <i>Mechanism and its Alternatives</i> Davidson: <i>Mental Events</i>
Lecture 11	Reductionism and Mental Causation <i>Reading quiz 9</i>	Fodor: <i>Special Sciences</i> Kim: <i>Multiple Realization and the Metaphysics of Reduction</i> Kim: <i>The Many Problems of Mental Causation (excerpt)</i>
Lecture 12	Mental Content <i>Reading quiz 10</i>	Dretske: <i>A Recipe for Thought</i> Millikan: <i>Biosemanantics</i>
Lecture 13	A challenge to the problem	Dennett: <i>Quining Qualia</i>
<i>Weeks 14 & 15</i>	<i>Final Exam Period</i>	

*Some topics may be discussed in either the week before or the week after they are listed, depending on how much time we spend on each topic