

PHILOS 7: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Summer Session C 2022 | Lectures: MWF 1-2:20pm | Lecture Hall: Rolfe 3135

Instructor: Tristen Cardwell

Office: Dodd Hall 363

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2 on Zoom and Wednesdays 2:45-3:45 in Office

Course Description:

If we can understand the nature of the mind, then we'll have gone a long way in understanding the kind of existence we lead. This course is an introduction to just that endeavor. The questions are many: What does it take for something to count as a mind? How do we tell apart things that have minds from ones that don't? Do minds fit into the physical world, or are they separate from it? What makes *your* mind belong to *you* and *my* mind belong to *me*? Does the nature of our minds bear on the question of whether we have free will? There are no easy answers. Instead, we will find our footing by appreciating various philosophical positions it is possible to hold with respect to these sorts of questions. By the end of the course, you will come away with an understanding of how some of these positions relate to one another and develop your own appreciation for their respective virtues and challenges.

Modality:

Lectures and sections are scheduled to be held in-person. Recordings of the lectures will be available for students *requiring* remote accommodations.

Course Work:

Weekly write-ups: These will be due by 11:59pm Monday every week (Except in Week 1, when the deadline will be Friday, August 5th at 11:59pm). Your write-up can be anywhere between 150-300 words, and your task is to demonstrate engagement with at least one of the assigned readings for that week. Your work will be graded based on the level of engagement that the write-up demonstrates. For example, a merely mechanical summary of the reading demonstrates a minimum level of engagement, while a sincere response that offers relevant and insightful commentary/questions demonstrates a high level of engagement.

There will be six write-ups, each worth 10 points. The lowest grade will be dropped, making for 50 points in total. All other assignments will follow a standard plus-minus letter grade scale.

Midterm: There will be a short-answer take-home midterm.

Final paper: 500-650 words; due on September 9 at 11:59 pm.

Section participation: You are expected to come to discussion sections. Your TA will have more details on how this component of your grade is evaluated.

Lecture attendance: I will be keeping track of attendance at lectures. You must communicate with me in advance if you wish to be excused for any absences, except in the case of documented emergencies.

Grade breakdown:

Weekly write-ups – 50%

Section participation – 10%

Lecture attendance – 5%

Midterm – 15%

Final paper – 20%

Late work and extensions:

In the absence of a granted extension, all work submitted late will be subject to penalties.

For exams and papers:

- Late work will be docked 1/3 of a letter grade for every 24 hour period that elapses, starting right after the deadline.
- You are granted **one** automatic 24-hour extension that you may apply to **either, but not both**, the midterm or the final paper. If you require a more substantial extension than this, you must express this need no later than 12 hours before the deadline. This is a firm expectation except in the case of documented emergencies.

For weekly write-ups:

- Late work will be docked one point for every 24 hour period that elapses, starting right after the deadline.

On academic integrity:

Students are expected to know and to follow the university's guidelines for academic honesty.

Academic misconduct can occur in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to) cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. When in doubt about whether some academic practice is acceptable, ask your instructor for assistance. Always err on the side of caution. Any suspected violation of university policy regarding academic conduct will be reported directly to the Office of the Dean of Students, without exception.

UCLA's policies on academic and intellectual integrity can be found at:

<https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/studentconductcode>

<https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity>

Section participation:

Sections are where you have the most latitude to express your thoughts about the readings, discuss them with your classmates, and seek clarity collectively. Gaining and testing your command over the course material and learning to think about it critically will depend on your participation in these discussions – good philosophy is not done solely in one's own head. Not only is it in your interest to come to discussion sections, but you have a grade incentive to do so as well. Your TA will explain the specifics of how section participation is evaluated.

Tentative reading and assignment schedule:

Week 1 | Aug 1, 3, 5 | Saying Hello to the Mind-Body Problem(s)

Jim Pryor, "Philosophical Terms and Methods"

Descartes, excerpts from *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Correspondence between Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia and Descartes

Week 2 | Aug 8, 10, 12 | Physics Interjects; Say Goodbye to the Mind-Body Problem?

"Epiphenomenalism" in *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Patricia Churchland, "What is eliminative materialism?"

Justin Garson, excerpts from *The Biological Mind: A Philosophical Introduction*

Week 3 | Aug 15, 17, 19 | Skepticism and Other Kinds of Minds

Sean Nee, "The Great Chain of Being"

Samhita and Gross, "The 'Clever Hans Phenomenon' Revisited"

Jason Goldman, "Desert Ants are Better than Most High School Students at Trigonometry"

Alan Turing, "The Imitation Game"

Anita Avramides, excerpts from *Other Minds*

TAKE-HOME MIDTERM RELEASED AUGUST 19

Week 4 | Aug 22, 24, 26 | Mind : Brain :: Software : Hardware

Andy Clark, "Meat Machines" in *Mindware*

Ian Ravenscroft, "The Computational Theory of Mind" in *Philosophy of Mind: A Beginner's Guide*

John Searle, "Can Computers Think?"

TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DUE AUGUST 22

Week 5 | Aug 29, 31, Sept 2 | "The Hard Problem"

Thomas Nagel, "What is it Like to be a Bat?"

David Chalmers, "Consciousness and its Place in Nature"

Antonio Damasio, excerpts from *The Feeling of What Happens*

Week 6 | Sept 7, 9 | What's at Stake?

September 5: Labor Day Holiday; No class

Daniel Dennett, "Where Am I?"

Abraham Loeb (In *The Scientific American*), "The Fate of Free Will: When Science Crosses Swords with Philosophy"

Descartes, "Animals are Machines"

FINAL PAPER DUE SEPTEMBER 9, 11:59PM