

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2022-23

PHILOSOP 2400F
Introduction to Philosophy of Mind

Fall Term
Date and time: see timetable
Room: see timetable

Instructor: **David Bourget**
OH: Monday 9 to 11
dbourget@uwo.ca

DESCRIPTION

« This course is an introduction to the philosophy of mind. It covers a broad range of traditional questions in this field, such as:

- What is a mind or a mental state?
- Can mental states be explained in the same way as other things (such as the motion of physical bodies)?
- Do we really know what others feel or experience?
- What is the relationship between sensory experience and thought?
- What is a person and under what conditions does a person continue to exist?
- Does the determinism of physics imply that we have no free will? »

TEXTS

« Bayne, Tim (2022). *Philosophy of Mind: An Introduction*. Routledge.

The text should be available from the bookstore. »

OBJECTIVES

« By the end of this course, you should be able to explain and evaluate the main philosophical arguments and positions discussed in this course both orally and in writing. You should acquire and/or improve upon general skills useful for critically engaging with philosophical ideas as well as other pursuits, including analyzing, and critically evaluating arguments, skills involved in effective oral and written communication, and fruitful engagement with peers. »

METHOD OF EVALUATION

- « Two short essays of 1250 words each:
 - o The first essay, worth 40% of the mark, is due 10 days before the last day for dropping the course without penalty (actual date to be announced).
 - o The second essay, worth 60% of the mark, is due on the last day of classes.
 - o Essay topics are assigned.
 - o Topics typically have the form “Explained and discuss critically position X”. Students are expected to summarize the material learned in the course.

- Essays must be submitted on OWL as MS Word (preferred) or PDF documents. 

BLENDED FORMAT

This course is delivered in a blended format, combining online presentations with in-class discussion. The recorded online presentation replaces the lectures. The in-class time (one hour per week) is for discussion of the topics.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The Department of Philosophy policies that govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>
Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.