

**Philosophy 255
Philosophy of Mind
Fall 2008**

Time: 11:30-12:20 MWF
Place: DWE 1502
Professor: Tim Kenyon
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Webpage: <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~tkenyon/mind08.htm> (Accessible also through UW-ACE, which contains further links and information. Course details may change. Check course webpage regularly for updates; the webpage is the authoritative version of the syllabus.)

This course is an introductory survey of issues central to the philosophy of mind. We will examine questions bearing on how mental states or properties fit into our conception of the world, questions about whether to apply the concept of a mind to non-human animals or artifacts like computers, and foundational questions about the nature and persistence of selves or persons. In the process we will explore broader philosophical issues in metaphysics and epistemology, along with related issues in linguistics, psychology and other sciences.

In addition to exploring themes in the philosophy of mind, this course will help you to hone your abilities in reading and writing philosophy and in revising your work on the basis of peer and grader feedback.

Required Text:

Chalmers, D. 2002. *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. Toronto: OUP.
Additional required readings are available online through Trellis.

Feedback and evaluation: Students will be required to write an in-class midterm examination, two short term papers, and a final examination. Students will also read and prepare comments on one short term paper by another student; this is an ungraded but mandatory component of the course. The first essay is due on Monday, September 29. They will be anonymously redistributed for comments on Wednesday October 1. Comments are due in on Wednesday October 15. The second essay is due on Friday November 7. Everyone is hereby given an extension until Friday November 14. Further extensions will not be granted.

The course grade itself has four components, with some flexibility in order for improvement over the course to be reflected in the overall grade.

<i>Coursework</i>	<i>% component of overall course grade</i>
a. Assignment 1: Short essay (writing your own and reviewing one other person's)	0 (Mandatory; peer review and exemplar feedback)
b. Midterm examination	30 (25, if you score higher on d than b)
c. Assignment 2: Short essay	30
d. Final examination, cumulative, but emphasis on material after midterm	40 (45, if you score higher on d than b)

Further information about assignments and examinations:

- The assignments are due in class, in hard copy, on the announced deadlines; late submissions cannot be accepted.
- Please do not put your name on **anything** you hand in for this class. Use your student number only.
- Both examinations will have the following format:
 - Short answer/definition
 - Paragraph-length answers
 - Short essay answers

Some guidelines and advice on writing a philosophy essay are available at:

<http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~tkenyon/howtowrite.html>

Course themes and readings (All in Chalmers, unless otherwise indicated)

I. The nature of mind: some basic positions

1. René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, II & IV
2. Gilbert Ryle, 'Descartes' Myth'
3. JJC Smart, 'Sensations and Brain Processes'
4. Hilary Putnam, 'The Nature of Mental States'

II. Folk psychology and mental metaphysics

5. Jerry Fodor, 'Special Sciences'
6. Jaegwon Kim, 'Multiple Realization and the Metaphysics of Reduction'
7. Ned Block, 'Troubles with Functionalism'
8. Jerry Fodor, 'Propositional Attitudes'
9. Daniel Dennett, 'True Believers'
10. Paul Churchland, 'Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes'
11. Thomas Nagel, 'What is It Like to be a Bat?'
12. Daniel Dennett, 'Quining Qualia'

III. Artifacts and creatures: Who or what has a mind?

13. René Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Parts 5 & 6. Available online in various translations; e.g.,
<http://www.literature.org/authors/descartes-rene/reason-discourse/> or
<http://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/descartes/descartes1.htm>
14. Alan Turing, 'Computing Machinery and Intelligence' *Mind*, 1958, Vol. 59, pp. 433-460. Available online through Trellis; use Journal Title search, then follow links.
15. John Searle, 'Can Computers Think?'
16. Daniel Povinelli et al. 2000. 'Toward a Science of Other Minds: Escaping the Argument by Analogy'. *Cognitive Science* 24.3: 509-41. Available online through Trellis; use Journal Title search, then follow links.
17. Frans B.M. de Waal, et al 1999. 'Anthropomorphism and Anthropodenial: Consistency in Our Thinking about Humans and Other Animals'. *Philosophical Topics* 27.1: 255-280. Available online through Trellis; use Journal Title search, then follow links.

IV. Personal identity

18. Bernard Williams, 'The Self and the Future', *The Philosophical Review* 79.2, 1970, pp. 161-80. Available online through Trellis; use Journal Title search, then follow links.
19. Derek Parfit, 'Reductionism and Personal Identity'

Note on due dates:

The essay is due by the start of class on the due date. Late work will not be accepted except in cases of significant illness or other unforeseeable catastrophe. Having a job, a vacation, or lots of work in other courses does not count as an unforeseeable catastrophe. If a student cannot meet a deadline or write an exam at the scheduled time, he or she should be prepared to supply documentation proving he or she has a legitimate excuse, or a mark of zero will be given for the assignment or exam. For medical excuses, the rule of thumb will be that if you are too ill to complete an assignment or write an exam, then you are ill enough to go to the doctor, so a note *from a doctor* will be expected.

Note on Avoidance of Academic Offenses:

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, 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. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p.1:11). 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. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

The following is extracted from Policy 71:

“Academic offenses include ... Plagiarism, which is the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one’s own. The use of other people’s work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written essays, laboratory reports, work-term reports, design projects, statistical data, computer programs and research results. The properly acknowledged use of sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of such material without complete and unambiguous acknowledgment, however, is an offense under this policy.”