INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND
PHIL 2400F (Section 550), Huron University College, Fall of 2018

Class Information:
Instructor: Dr. Jonathan P. Marsh
Email: jmarsh26@uwo.ca (preferred contact)
Meetings: Wed: 6:30 PM-9:30 PM in HC-W103

Office hour: Wed: 5:30 PM -6:30 PM
Office: A18
Course website: https://owl.uwo.ca/portal

Description:
Controversies about the moral status of animals, human embryos and PVS patients, not to mention the possibility of life beyond the grave, very often trace back to a more fundamental controversy in the philosophy of mind: What are minds? This course is about this latter controversy.

Unit 1 begins by discussing two strikingly different pictures of the human mind – one that is Platonic; the other, Aristotelian. It then explores how these pictures were modified and contested in early modern Europe. Unit 2 examines some more recent, i.e. 20th century, theories of mind, namely, Behaviourism, Mind-Brain Identity Theory and Functionalism, and some challenges they have faced. Unit 3 surveys a variety of contemporary topics, including, consciousness, artificial intelligence, propositional attitudes and mental causation.

N.B. No background knowledge of these topics, or of the philosophy of mind, more generally, is expected or presupposed.

Outcomes and Methods:
By the end of the semester, students will

1. be acquainted with some of the major traditional and contemporary problems, figures and controversies in the philosophy of mind (KNOWLEDGE);
2. have presented and defended their own thoughts on a core issue in this domain (PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT);
3. have cultivated intellectual virtues pertaining to argumentation, dialogue, interpretation, research and clear writing (to help with outcomes 1 and 2) (SKILLS).

Teaching methods include lectures, tutorials, occasional videos and dialogues.

Text:

Available for purchase in the university bookstore. Supplementary readings will be made available on OWL.

Academic Calendar:
http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Courses.cfm?CourseAcadCalendarID=HURON_028459_1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=

Requirements and Values:
• Attendance/Participation: 20%
• Group Dialogue 15% (Dialogue Schedule TBA. Grade will be returned to students on, or before, Nov 5, 2018)
• Paper 35% (Due Dec 1, 2018. Thesis due on Nov 21/2018. See OWL for details.)
• Exam 30%

N.B. A successful participation grade encompasses more, though no less, than reliable class attendance. It also requires joining the conversation. Whether this occurs during ordinary lectures, workshops, or tutorials, where I may distribute questions/small assignments unannounced, doing this well requires knowing and thoughtfully engaging the assigned readings.

Grading Information and Explanation of Grades:
Each assignment will be accompanied with clear instructions. Students will be evaluated in accordance with how well they follow them. For university-wide undergraduate grade descriptors, go here http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Archive/2017/2017/pg104.html
### Tentative Reading Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Course Introduction. No readings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/19</td>
<td><strong>Unit 1: HISTORICAL DEBATES IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF MIND</strong></td>
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|      | 1. **Plato: The Soul and the Forms**  
|      | *Plato: Selections from The Phaedo* |
|      | 2. **Aristotle: Naturalizing the Soul**  
|      | *Aristotle: Selections from On the Soul and Sense and Sensibilia* |
| 9/26 | 3. **The Scientific Revolution**  
|      | *Galileo Galilei: Selections from The Assayer*  
|      | *René Descartes: Selections from The World or Treatise on Light*  
|      | *René Descartes: Selections from Principles of Philosophy*  
|      | **4. Descartes: Knowledge of Mind and Matter**  
|      | *René Descartes: Selections from Meditations on First Philosophy*  
|      | 5. **Descartes’ Dualism**  
|      | *René Descartes: Selections from Discourse on the Method of rightly conducting one’s reason and seeking the truth in the sciences*  
|      | *Antoine Arnauld: Objections to Descartes’ Meditations*  
|      | *René Descartes: Reply to Antoine Arnauld*  
|      | *René Descartes: Selections from Principles of Philosophy*  
|      | *John Locke: Selections from An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*  
|      | *A supplementary reading by Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia will be made available on OWL.*  
|      | 6. **Materialism and Idealism**  
|      | *Thomas Hobbes: Selections from Leviathan*  
|      | *George Berkeley: Selections from A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*  
| 10/3 | **Workshop on how to dialogue** |
| 10/17 | **Unit 2: RECENT THEORIES OF MIND** |
|      | 7. **Behaviourism and Linguistic Philosophy**  
|      | *B.F. Skinner: Selections from Science and Human Behaviour*  
|      | *Noam Chomsky: A Review of B.F. Skinner’s Verbal Behaviour*  
|      | *Gilbert Ryle: Selections from The Concept of Mind*  
|      | *Ludwig Wittgenstein: Selections from Philosophical Investigations*  
| 10/24 | **8. The Mind-Brain Identity Theory**  
|      | *U.T. Place: “Is Consciousness a Brain Process?”*  
|      | *J.J.C. Smart: “Sensations and Brain Processes”*  
|      | *Saul Kripke: Selections from “Identity and Necessity”*  

Last updated: 8/31/2018.
### 9. Functionalism
- David M. Armstrong: “The Nature of Mind”
- Ned Block: Selections from “Troubles with Functionalism”

### Unit 3: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

#### 10. Artificial Intelligence
- Alan Turing: “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”
- John R. Searle: “Minds, Brains and Programs”
- Margaret A. Boden: “Escaping from the Chinese Room”

Workshop on how to write a philosophy paper.

#### 11. Consciousness
- Thomas Nagel: “What Is It Like to Be a Bat?”
- Frank Jackson: “Epiphenomenal Qualia”
- Daniel C. Dennett: “Quining Qualia”
- David J. Chalmers: “Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness”

#### 11/21

12. Propositional Attitudes
- Jerry A. Fodor: “Propositional Attitudes”
- Paul Churchland: “Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes”
- Daniel C. Dennett: “True Believers: The Intentional Strategy and Why It Works”


#### 11/28

13 Mental Content: Natural Semantics
- Fred I. Dretske: Précis of Knowledge and the Flow of Information
- Ruth Millikan: “Biosemantics”

14 Mental Content: Individuation
- Jerry A. Fodor: Selections from “Methodological Solipsism Considered as a Research Strategy in Cognitive Psychology”
- Hilary Putnam: Selections from Reason, Truth and History

#### 12/5

15 Mental Causation
- Donald Davidson: “Mental Events” and a Selection from “Psychology as Philosophy”
- Jaegwon Kim: Selection from “The Many Problems of Mental Causation”

Term Papers are due on 12/1, and must be submitted via the assignment tab via OWL.

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The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.