

****Please note: this is a tentative course syllabus. It may change before the start of the semester in September 2023.****

PHIL 260 A01 - Fall 2023
Introduction to Philosophy of Mind

Instructor: Eric Hochstein

CRN: 12678

Time: Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 1:30 pm – 2:20 pm.

Place: CORB129

Office Hours: (in Clearihue B330) Wednesday 3:00-5:00 pm; and by appointment

Email: ehochstein@uvic.ca

Description: This course will examine fundamental philosophical questions regarding the nature of the mind. Specifically: What is the relationship between the mind and the body? Is the mind nothing more than the brain, or is it something distinct from the brain a kind of computer? What is consciousness, and what is required for a scientific explanation of it?

Structure: The course comprises three lectures (50min) per week, the contents of which will be based on the course readings. The course will proceed primarily through lectures and discussions. Readings for the class will all be uploaded onto the course website.

Intellectual property of materials on the LMS website: Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to the LMS website are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria. Do not circulate this material or post it to notesharing sites without my permission. Posting course materials to notesharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the Policy on Academic Integrity (). Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

Evaluation: The course will be graded as follows:

- x 2 mid-terms, worth 15% and 25%
- x A term paper 25% (30 double-spaced pages);
- x A final examination worth 35%.

Important to Note: It is expected that students will prepare for and attend class regularly. Students are encouraged to consult the instructor with any problems or concerns about the course early in the semester.

Grading System:

Percentages	Letter Grade	Grade Point
90 – 100	A+	9
85 – 89	A	8
80 – 84	A-	7

An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students

77 – 79	B+	6
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Interpretation of these grade definitions is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade during the course that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing

Week 9 (Oct 31, Nov 1 & Nov 3): Eliminative Materialism

Midterm 2 Nov 3rd

Readings:

- x Churchland, P.M. "Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes"

Week 10 (Nov 7, Nov 8 & Nov 10): Consciousness (Part 1)

Readings:

- x Blackmore, S. "What is it like to be...?"

Week 11 (Nov 17): Consciousness (Part 2)