

# TENTATIVE SYBALLUS

## PHIL 362- Spring 2023 Philosophy of Mind

Instructor: Eric Hochstein

CRN: 22581

Time: Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 12:30 am – 1:20 pm.

Place: COR B107

Office Hours: (in Clearihue B330) Tuesday 2:00-4:00 pm; and by appointment

Email: ehochstein@uvic.ca

**\*Please Note\*** It is recommended but not required, that you take Phil 260: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind prior to this course.

**Description** This course will explore philosophical questions and debates surrounding current scientific understanding of the mind. Cognitive science takes the brain to be a computer, and the mind to be the set of programs that the brain runs. If this story is true, it raises a number of philosophical questions. These include: What kind of computer is the brain? What are the tools we use to study the brain, and what are their limitations? Is the mind limited to the brain, or can it extend beyond it? How can we tell what sort of mental states animals have?

**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.

**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 ([https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk\\_0xsM\\_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcltemType=policies](https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcltemType=policies)). 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:

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

Policy on assignments, tests, and term papers Late papers will receive a deduction of 5% per day until handed in. If any student will be unable to take a test or exam, they should consult the University's course/academic concession policy <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academicconcessions/accommodations/request-for-academicconcession/index.php#pre-quest-in-course-extension>

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. Also, constantly checking and using your cell phone during class is extremely distracting. Please refrain from doing so

### 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
73 – 76	B	5
70 – 72	B-	4

A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material.

65 – 69	C+	3
60 – 64	C	2

A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.

50 – 59	D	1
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A D is earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.

F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is inadequate and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.

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 the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open-ended manner. Rest assured that if you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department.

For additional information regarding grades, please see the most recent (September 2021) edition of the Uvic Undergraduate Calendar.

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to percentage scores. Letter grades and grade points are listed purely for reference.

Final examinations are the property of Uvic and are not returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office according to Uvic procedures and regulations.

Uvic is committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all members. Further information regarding Uvic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in the Uvic calendar, but if you have any particular concerns in our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tentative Schedule of Readings:

Week 1 (Jan 10, Jan 11 & Jan 13): The Computational Theory of Mind  
Readings:

- José Bermúdez, “Algorithms and Turing Machines”
- José Bermúdez, “The Physical Symbol System Hypothesis”

Week 2 (Jan 17, Jan 18 & Jan 20): The Language of Thought Hypothesis  
Readings:

- José Bermúdez, “Language of Thought Part 1”
- José Bermúdez

- Colin Klein, "Philosophical Issues in Neuroimaging"

Week 5 (Feb 7, Feb 8 & Feb 10): The Connectionism Movement

Midterm 1

Readings:

- Paul Thagard, "Connections"

Week 6 (Feb 14, Feb 15 & Feb 17): Is the Mind Massively Modular?

Readings:

- Peter Carruthers, "Why we should Expect the Mind to be Modular"

Week 13 (Apr 4 & Apr 5): Spill Over and Review  
No Readings