

## PHIL 362- Spring 2024 Philosophy of Mind

Instructor: Eric Hochstein

CRN: 22546

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

Place: ELL 061

Office Hours: (in Clearihue B330) Wednesday 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 understandings 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:

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

0 – 49	F	0
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F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is inadequate and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.

not include editing are normally permitted.

Tentative Schedule of Readings:

Week 1 (Jan 9, Jan 10 & Jan 11): The Computational Theory of Mind

Readings:

- x José Bermúdez, "Algorithms and Turing Machines"
- x José Bermúdez, "The Physical Symbol System Hypothesis"

Week 2 (Jan 12, Jan 17 & Jan 19): The Language of Thought Hypothesis

Readings:

- x José Bermúdez, "Language of Thought Part 1"
- x José Bermúdez, "Language of Thought Part 2"

Week 3 (Jan 20, Jan 24 & Jan 26): The Person/Subperson Distinction

Readings:

- x Zoe Drayson, "The Person/Subperson Distinction"

Readings:

- x Lisa Barrett, "The Myth of Universal Emotions"

Week 10 (Mar 12, Mar 13 & Mar 15): Embodied and Extended Cognition

Mid-term 2 (Mar 15)

Readings:

- x Jane Foster & Karen-Ann Neufeld "Gut-brain axis: how the microbiome influences anxiety and depression"
- x Andy Clark & David Chalmers, "The Extended Mind Hypothesis"

Week 11 (Mar 19): Animal Minds

I will be out of town March 20 & 22. Lectures for these classes will be pre-recorded and uploaded to the course website.

Readings:

- x Povinelli, Bering & Giambrone, "Toward a Science of Other Minds: Escaping the Argument by Analogy"

Week 12 (Mar 26, Mar 27 & Mar 29): Dynamical Systems Theory

Term Paper Due March 29

Readings:

- x Tim Van Gelder, "What Might Cognition Be, If Not Computation?"

Week 13 (Apr 2, April 3 & Apr 5): Spill Over and Review

No Readings

Note for students with disabilities:

The Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>) is a fantastic resource that collaborates with all academic departments to help arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with them