

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate/Graduate Course Outline 2016-17**

Philosophy 4410/9618: Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Mind

**Fall Term 2015
Tu 11:30-2:30
STVH 1145**

**Instructor: Chris Viger
Office STVH 4149
519-661-2111 X85755
cviger@uwo.ca**

DESCRIPTION

This survey course in the philosophy of mind is divided into two sections. The first section focuses on concepts and content. We will consider several theories about what concepts are, what it is to have a concept, and problems that each view faces; we will also look at theories of mental content that attempt to explain how our thoughts are about things in the world. Topics will include concepts as definitions, prototypes, symbols in a language of thought, and mere ascriptions made to predict intentional systems. Theories of content we will study include causal/informational theories, naturalistic teleological theories, and phenomenal intentionality theory. The second section of the course investigates ways in which cognitive science is being used to address traditional philosophical questions such as the nature of free will, consciousness, and responsibility. As we better understand the mechanisms that produce our behaviour what is left of our traditional notions of ourselves?

TEXTS

No text. Readings assigned in class.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop critical reading and writing skills.
2. Develop skills in oral communication.
3. Learn main theories of concepts and challenges each faces.
4. Learn main theories of content and challenges each faces.
5. Investigate how cognitive science impacts on notions of ourselves, including consciousness, free will, and the self.

REQUIREMENTS

Questions for discussion (pass/fail)	10%
Paper 1 outline	10%
Paper 1 (1500-2000 words)	35%
Paper 2 outline	10%
Paper 2 (1500-2000 words)	35%

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Students are directed to view the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>).

Policy on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.”

Statement on Use of Plagiarism Software

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”

Additional Links

- Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>)
- Student Support Services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>)