

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2011-12**

Philosophy 3420F: Philosophy of Psychology

**Fall Term 2011
Wednesday 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Stevenson Hall Room 1145**

**Instructor: C. Viger
Office: StH 3140,
Office Hours – Thurs 9:30 to 10:30 (or by appt)
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DESCRIPTION

The course is divided in six parts, following the required text. It begins with a historical overview of the philosophy of psychology to introduce the student to the issues. The second part of the course is methodological, investigating the nature of psychological explanation. Part three considers the role of representation in cognition and problems about how representations fit within a scientific world-view. Part four connects psychological concepts to their biological basis and raises issues about how psychology and neuroscience are related. Part five covers issues about perception and experience. The final section addresses issues of personhood and how the notion of a self fits together with the various processes considered in earlier sections.

TEXT

The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Psychology, John Symons and Paco Calvo (Eds).
New York: Routledge (2011).

OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce students to the issues arising in philosophy of psychology.
2. Introduce students to the methodology of psychology and the unique problems it faces in having to account for content and meaning.
3. Students will develop a competence in discussing issues of representation, perception, personhood and psychological states being realized in biological states.
4. Students will develop their critical reading and writing skills.
5. Students will develop their oral presentation skills through class discussions.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Class participation 25%. Includes preparing one question or comment for each week's readings, to be submitted at each class.

2. Short essays 75%. One short paper 500-750 words for each part 2-6 of the course discussing a theme arising in that section. Each paper will count for 15%. Papers will be due one week after the completion of a section with the exception of the paper for the final section, which is due in the last class. No work can be accepted after the last day of classes. Late papers are penalized at 5% per day, including weekends up to a maximum of 50% penalty

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://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.