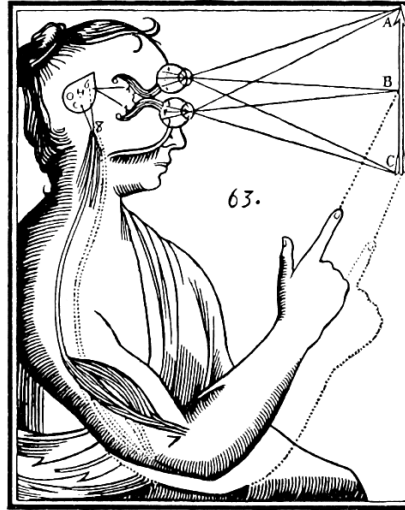


THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2013-14

PHIL2050F: The Scientific Search for the Mind



Fall Term 2015
Mon., Wed. & Fri. 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Location: TC 205

Instructor: Jacqueline Sullivan
Office: 4151 Stevenson Hall
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 1-2 p.m.
519-661-2111 x85755
jsulli29@uwo.ca

DESCRIPTION

In his treatise *Meditations on First Philosophy* (1641), the French philosopher René Descartes put forward the idea that “minds”, in so far as they are *thinking* things, differ from physical bodies, which do not think. Descartes’ claim that the mind and body are separate substances—a view referred to as “substance dualism”—prompted philosophers and scientists to wonder: *How can minds be studied scientifically if they are not a part of the physical world?*

In this course we will consider a variety of different answers to this question in so far as we will critically evaluate areas of science that have emerged historically to understand the nature of the mind and its place in the physical world. The sciences that will be the focus of our analysis will include: Freudian psychoanalysis, early physiology, learning theory & behaviorism, phrenology & localization theory, Gestalt psychology, psychophysics, cognitive psychology, computationalism, evolutionary psychology, neuropsychology, intelligence testing, consciousness studies, functional neuroanatomy and cognitive neuroscience. We will begin by considering a set of conceptual tools on offer in philosophy of science and philosophy of mind, which we will use to guide our analysis of each of the areas of science we will consider.

TEXTS

- (1) Fancher, Raymond E. & Rutherford, Alexandra (2011). *Pioneers of Psychology*, 4th Edition. W.W. Norton & Company.

(2) Additional readings will be made available as pdfs on Owl.

OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will have developed a detailed understanding of a variety of scientific approaches to studying and understanding the mind, the ability to critically evaluate these approaches, and the capacity to formulate and defend their own positions with respect to such approaches.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance & Participation:	20%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Paper 1 (4-5 pages):	20%
Paper 2 (4-5 pages):	20%
Final Exam:	20%

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.

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.