

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate/Graduate Course Outline Fall 2015

**Philosophy 4410F/9xxx: Problems in Philosophy of Mind:
Mental Representation**

Fall term 2015 Instructor: Angela Mendelovici
Time: W 11:30-2:30 OH: TBA
Room: TC-343 <mailto:amendel15@uwo.ca>

Description

This course examines topics of contemporary interest in the philosophy of mental representation. We will address questions such as the following: What is a theory of mental representation a theory *of*? What is the correct theory of mental representation? Can mental representation be explain in terms of broadly physical phenomena? Does what a subject represents depend solely on how the subject is from the skin-in, or do environmental factors play a role in determining what she represents? Is mental representation a relation to a represented content, and, if so, what kinds of things are contents? Can mental representation explain consciousness? Can consciousness explain mental representation? Prerequisite for Philosophy 4410F: Philosophy 2400F/G.

Texts

- Available online through a university connection

Undergraduate requirements (4410F)

- 35% - Midterm paper (1500–2000 words)
- 45% - Final paper (1500–2000 words)
- 20% - 10 responses (200–500 words)

You will be provided **paper topics** in advance. However, you may choose to write on your own topic, provided it is approved by your instructor at least a week in advance of the paper due date. **Late papers** will be penalized by 3%

per day late, including weekends, up to a maximum of 50%. Papers must be **submitted** through WebCT and to Turnitin.com.

Responses must be submitted in person at the beginning of each class, starting the second week of class. Responses should briefly explain and react to a central point in the week's readings. Each response you complete is worth 2% of your final grade, up to a maximum of 20%. Late responses will not be accepted except in extraordinary and properly documented circumstances in which you miss more than two days of class. Responses may be used as a basis for class activities, and can form the basis of your midterm or final papers.

You are expected to attend class, be attentive, and respectfully and constructively engage with peers during class activities and discussions. If this proves challenging, or, for whatever reason, you feel uncomfortable in class, please talk to your instructor.

Graduate requirements (course number TBA)

- 80% - Final paper (3500–5000 words)
- 10% - Class presentation
- 10% - 10 responses (200–500 words)

Class presentations should summarize one of the readings for that week. They might also raise questions for discussion or present some critical commentary.

Responses must be submitted in person at the beginning of each class, starting the second week of class. Responses should briefly explain and react to a central point in the week's readings. Each response you complete is worth 1% of your final grade, up to a maximum of 10%. Late responses will not be accepted except in extraordinary and properly documented circumstances in which you miss more than two days of class. Responses may be used as a basis for class activities, and can form the basis of your midterm or final papers.

Papers should be an original research contribution on one of the topics we will cover. Your aim is to produce a paper that might be submitted to a conference or a journal. Depending on your paper topic, you may be required to do outside research. **Late papers** will be penalized by 3% per day late, including weekends, up to a maximum of 50%. Papers must be **submitted** through WebCT and to Turnitin.com.

You are expected to attend class, be attentive, and respectfully and constructively engage with peers during class activities and discussions. If this proves challenging, or, for whatever reason, you feel uncomfortable in class, please talk to your instructor.

Electronic devices

The use of laptops and tablets is permitted in class. Out of courtesy to your instructor and especially your fellow students, please limit the use of your devices

to taking notes and looking up information relevant to the discussion at hand. Phones should not be used in class except in special circumstances, e.g. to take notes. If you wish to record lectures, please ask your instructor for permission.

Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to explain and evaluate the main philosophical arguments and positions discussed in this course both orally and in writing. Students should acquire and/or improve upon general skills useful for critically engaging with philosophical ideas as well as other pursuits, including analyzing, and critically evaluating arguments, skills involved in effective oral and written communication, and fruitful engagement with peers.

Department policies

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.

Mental health

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.

July 2, 2015