

WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline Fall 2017

**Philosophy 2400G: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind**

Fall term 2017

Time: M 10:30-11:30 and W 10:30-12:30

Room: SSC 3010

Instructor: Angela Mendelovici

OH: TBA

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## Description

What is the mind? Is the mind physical, or are mental states nothing over and above physical states? Which features of the mind are most difficult to explain, and how can we try to explain them? This course addresses these and other questions. Topics include dualism, physicalism, behaviourism, functionalism, consciousness, and intentionality.

## Texts

- Textbook TBA
- Other readings available for free online through a university connection

## Requirements

- 35% - Midterm paper (1000–1200 words)
- 45% - Final paper (1200–2000 words)
- 10% - In-class activities
- 10% - 10 responses (150–400 words)

You will be provided **paper topics** in advance. You may choose to write on your own topic, provided it is approved by me at least a week in advance of the paper due date.

**Late papers** will be penalized by 3% per day late, including weekend days, up to a maximum of 50%. Papers must be **submitted** through WebCT and to Turnitin.com.

**Responses** are to be submitted in person at the beginning of class each Monday, 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%. This means you can miss 2 responses without penalty. Late responses will not be accepted except in properly documented circumstances in which you miss more than two days of class in which responses are due. Responses may be used as a basis for class activities, and can form the basis of your midterm or final papers.

**In-class activities** include both group activities and individual activities. They can take place on any day without warning, and you must be present in class to get the points for an activity. Each activity completed is worth 1% of your final grade. There will be 12 activities, so you can miss 2 without penalty.

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 me about it.

## Electronic devices

The use of laptops and tablets is permitted in class. Out of courtesy to your fellow students (and to me), 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 me for permission first.

## Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to explain and evaluate the main philosophical arguments and positions discussed in this course both orally and in writing. You 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.

## Auditing

If you wish to audit the course, please consult with me prior to or during the first week of classes.

## Department policies

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

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

July 13, 2017