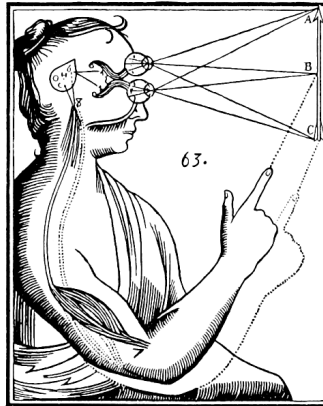


WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2020-21

Philosophy Course Number: PHIL 2050G-001
Title: Scientific Search for the Mind



Winter Term 2020-2021

Asynchronous

Zoom Lectures (live and recorded):

2:30-3:30 p.m. Mon., 2:30-3:30 p.m. Wed.

Instructor: Jacqueline Sullivan

Office 7170 WIRB

Zoom Office Hours only: Mon 4-5 p.m.,

Wed 4-5 p.m.

No classroom meetings—all materials on OWL

E-mail: 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 by critically evaluating areas of philosophy and science that have emerged historically to understand the nature of the mind and its place in the physical world. We will begin by considering Cartesian dualism and the mechanical philosophy. The sciences that will be then be the focus of our analysis include: phrenology & localization theory (e.g., Francis Gall, Pierre Flourens, Paul Broca, Carl Wernicke), early physiology (e.g., Hermann von Helmholtz), psychophysics (e.g., Gustav Fechner), experimental psychology (William Wundt), Gestalt psychology (e.g., Edward Titchener), evolutionary psychology (Charles Darwin on emotions in man and animals), William James’ psychology, learning theory and behaviorism (Ivan Pavlov, John Watson and B.F. Skinner) Freudian psychoanalysis, later physiology (e.g., Karl Lashley, Wilder Penfield), developmental psychology (e.g., Alfred Binet & Jean Piaget), artificial intelligence (e.g., Alan Turing), 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 and will then use these tools to guide our analysis of each of the sciences we will consider. This course is designed for and should be of interest to students majoring in the humanities and/or the sciences.

TEXTS

RECOMMENDED

(1) Fancher, Raymond E. & Rutherford, Alexandra (2017). *Pioneers of Psychology*, 5th Edition. W.W. Norton & Company.

REQUIRED

(2) Additional readings are available as pdfs on Owl under the “Resources” folder (“Online Readings”).

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

There are 4 assignments for this course that together total 100% of the grade. Two assignments are take-home assignments and two are essay assignments. The take-home assignments will involve a combination of short answer questions. The essay assignments will be 1500-2000 words in length. You are not required to do research for these take-home assignments and essays beyond the reading material that will be covered in class.

- (1) Take-home assignment 1: (16%)
- (2) Essay 1: (32%)
- (3) Take-home assignment 2: (20%)
- (4) Essay 2: (32%)

The ability to write a strong essay for the essay assignments and adequately answer questions on the take-home assignments will depend crucially on you having done the assigned readings for the course and having watched the recorded (VoiceThread) and live (Zoom) lectures each week. The instructor will pass out questions for each assignment at least 2-3 weeks before it is due. The instructor will provide explicit directions as to how the essays should be structured and the grading rubric.

Essays submitted after the due date will lose 5 points/day and will not be accepted past the 6th day after the due date. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule; you are responsible to plan your schedules accordingly. Paper 3 will not be accepted after the last day of class. NO EXCEPTIONS. Papers are to be submitted via the “Turn It In” link on the OWL course website.

The instructor will provide explicit directions as well as topics for each paper. She will set aside class time to talk about the essays—how they are to be structured and what the precise requirements are.

AUDIT

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

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY 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.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested.

The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

SELF- REPORTED ABSENCE FORM

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_322

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. For 3000- or 4000-level courses in which such a graded assessment is impracticable, the instructor(s) must obtain an exemption from this policy from the Dean and this exemption must be noted on the corresponding course syllabus. In rare instances and at the Dean's discretion, other courses could receive a similar exemption, which also must be noted in the course syllabus.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

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

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

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>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.