

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2020-21**

**Philosophy Course Number: PHIL 3450F
Title: Philosophy of Neuroscience**

Fall Term 2020-2021

Asynchronous

**Zoom Lecture (live and recorded):
10:30-11:30 a.m. Mon.**

**Zoom Discussion (live not recorded):
11:30-12:30 a.m. Mon**

VoiceThread Lecture Posted 10:30 a.m. Wed.

No classroom meetings-all materials on OWL

Instructor: Jacqueline Sullivan

Office 7170 WIRB

**Zoom Office Hours only: Mon 2-3 p.m.,
Wed 11 a.m.-12 p.m.**

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DESCRIPTION

During the past three decades neuroscience has made major strides in advancing our understanding of the brain and nervous system, consciousness, cognition and behavior. Such advances have prompted interest in neuroscience among philosophers of mind and philosophers of science, leading to the creation of two new philosophical research areas: “neurophilosophy” and “philosophy of neuroscience”. Neurophilosophers are interested in questions such as: Are mental states nothing over and above brain states? How does the brain enable subjective and emotional experiences, higher-order consciousness, sensation, perception and cognition? What kinds of claims about traditional philosophical issues such as the mind-brain relationship, free will, mental illness and human morality can be made on the basis of neuroscientific data? What are the implications of neuroscience for the law? What are the ethical implications of enhancing or altering human brain function? Philosophers of neuroscience, in contrast, are concerned with questions like: What is the nature of explanation in neuroscience? What kinds of assumptions inform neuroscientific research? What makes for a good or reliable neuroscientific experiment?

In this course we will address each of these questions. The course should be of interest to students majoring in philosophy, cognitive science or neuroscience.