

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**  
**Undergraduate Course Outline 2021-22**

**Philosophy 2400G: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind - 001**

<p><b>Winter of 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting place: UCC-41</li><li>• M, W &amp; F 12:30 - 1:30</li><li>• <i>No meetings from February 19, 2022 to February 27, 2022, i.e., during Spring Reading Week.</i></li></ul>	<p>Instructor: Dr. Jonathan P. Marsh Office and Office Hours: TBA E-mail: <a href="mailto:jmarsh26@uwo.ca">jmarsh26@uwo.ca</a> Every attempt will be made to respond to your e-mails within 24 business hours, on M-F, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.</p>
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**DESCRIPTION**

Controversies about the moral status of animals, embryos and PVS patients, not to mention the possibility of life beyond the grave, often trace back to a more fundamental controversy in the philosophy of mind: *What are minds?* This course is about this latter controversy.

UNIT 1 begins by discussing two strikingly different pictures of the human mind that go back to the ancient world, viz., materialism and dualism. It then explores how these views were modified and contested in early modern Europe. UNIT 2 examines some more recent, i.e., 20th century, theories of mind and some difficulties they have faced (mostly having to do with pain, zombies, colours and/or bats). UNIT 3 surveys a variety of contemporary topics, including AI, simulated worlds and extended cognition.

Please note: as this is an introductory course, no background knowledge of these topics, or of the philosophy of mind, more generally, is expected or presupposed.

**TEXT**

Kind, Amy. *Philosophy of Mind: The Basics*. Routledge. 2020. ISBN 9781138807822 [Available for purchase at the UWO bookstore](#). [Also available in eBook format](#).

- Any additional readings will be made available via OWL.

**OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the semester, you will



1. be acquainted with some of the major traditional and contemporary problems, figures, positions and controversies in the philosophy of mind and how they relate to other philosophical topics, e.g., free will, personal identity and death (KNOWLEDGE),
2. have presented and defended your own thoughts on a core issue in this domain (PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT),
3. have cultivated intellectual virtues pertaining to argumentation, dialogue, interpretation, research and clear writing (to help with outcomes 1 and 2) (SKILLS).

## **REQUIREMENTS**

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Values</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>	<b>Corresponding Objective(s)</b>
• 1. Philosophy Podcast (small groups)	15%	Jan 28	1- 3
• 2. Midterm Exam	35%	Feb 16	1
• 3. One Research Paper	30%	March 23 [Option A] <i>or</i> April 1 [Option B]	2-3
• 4. Active and Informed Participation	20 %		1- 3

Good philosophy requires conversation. A successful participation grade, therefore, encompasses more, though no less, than reliable class attendance. It also requires joining the conversation. Whether this occurs during ordinary lectures, workshops, tutorials, or small group sessions, where I may distribute questions unannounced, doing this well requires knowing and thoughtfully engaging the assigned readings. To help you with assignment 3, your essay, we will have a workshop on writing philosophy papers. *Note: as this is an essay course, students must write one (1) term paper. The two due dates above correspond to different paper topics (to be provided). Choose exactly one (1) option/submission date.* Podcast assignment instructions will be made available via OWL's assignment tab. As podcast recordings take place in small groups, I will distribute group numbers early on during the semester. Facial presentation, during one's podcast recording, is optional, i.e., not required. **Please note: only myself and/or our course TA will listen to your group's podcast. I.e., I will not share this personal info with other members of the class or anyone else.**

## **GRADING INFORMATION AND EXPLANATION OF GRADES:**

Each assignment will be accompanied with clear instructions. Students will be evaluated in accordance with how well they follow them. What follows is a university wide grade explanation:

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

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## **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](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

## **ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS [ADDED]**

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed here [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_religious.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.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](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](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.