

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2024-25

**PHILOSOP 3420G-001**  
**Philosophy of Psychology**  
**Time: Th 6-9pm**  
**Location: SH 3315**

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Prof. Chris Viger  
Office: STVH 4133  
Office Hours: Th 12-1pm, F 9-10am  
Email: [cviger@uwo.ca](mailto:cviger@uwo.ca)  
TA: Carson Johnston  
Office: STVH 2137  
Office Hour: M 4-5pm  
Email: [cjohn445@uwo.ca](mailto:cjohn445@uwo.ca)

### **PREREQUISITE CHECKING**

At least 60% in 1.0 Philosophy course at the 2000-2999 level, or permission of the department, or 3rd year standing in Psychology

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the prerequisites for this course or have special permission to take the course without the prerequisites. [Student Responsibility for Course Selection](#)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course is divided in six parts, following the required text. It begins with a historical overview of the philosophy of psychology to introduce the student to the issues. The second part of the course is methodological, investigating the nature of psychological explanation. Part three considers the role of representation in cognition and problems about how representations fit within a scientific world-view. Part four connects psychological concepts to their biological basis and raises issues about how psychology and neuroscience are related. Part five covers issues about perception and experience. The final section addresses issues of personhood and how the notion of a self fits together with the various processes considered in earlier sections.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Introduce students to the issues arising in philosophy of psychology.
2. Introduce students to the methodology of psychology and the unique problems it faces in having to account for content and meaning.
3. Students will develop a competence in discussing issues of representation, perception, personhood and psychological states being realized in biological states.
4. Students will develop their critical reading and writing skills.
5. Students will develop their oral presentation skills through class discussions.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Psychology, 2nd Edition, Sarah Robins, John Symons and Paco Calvo (Eds). New York: Routledge (2020).

**The textbook costs:** \$93.80 at the bookstore for a paperback copy or \$92 for an ebook. Either are acceptable and you may purchase a second-hand copy of the textbook, but you must purchase the second edition, as there are papers we will be reading that are not included in earlier editions. The publisher's information for this book is below.

<https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Companion-to-Philosophy-of-Psychology/Robins-Symons-Calvo/p/book/9780367336790>

### **METHOD OF EVALUATION**

One short paper 500-750 words for each part 2-6 of the course, discussing a theme arising in that section. Each paper will count for 20%. Papers will be due one week after the completion of a section: Feb. 6, Feb. 27, Mar. 13, Mar. 27, Apr. 10 (submitted as take home assignment). Late papers are penalized 5% per day, including weekends, up to a maximum of 25%.

A link to the university's Policy on academic Consideration is below.

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

### **DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES**

The Department of Philosophy policies that govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website <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.

### **AUDIT**

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

### **STATEMENT ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)**

"If plagiarism or unauthorized AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes and/or drafts of assignments after the assignment has been submitted. Students must keep all notes and first drafts until the assignment is returned to them."

*In this course, the use of AI (automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited. If unauthorized AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for **research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines**, and other materials used in **preparing assignments**. Students are expected to **retain** these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.*

## **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

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf)

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

## **RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION**

Western's Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be found 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).

In the case of mid-term tests, notification is to be "given in writing to the instructor as early as possible, but not later than **one week** prior to the writing of the test".

## **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.

## **SCHOLASTIC 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.p  
df](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

## **Statement on the use of plagiarism-checking software**

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>).

## **ACADEMIC ADVISING**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic

considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

[https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html)

### **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) 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 (24/7 availability).

### **GENDER-BASED AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).