

**PHIL 260 A01 - Fall 2020**  
**Introduction to Philosophy of Mind**

**\*Please note: This is only a tentative course syllabus. It may change between now and the start of classes in September 2020**

**Instructor:** Eric Hochstein

**CRN:** 12447

**Time:** TBD

**Place:** Due to COVID 19, this course will be entirely online. It will be an **asynchronous** course, meaning that all course lectures given during scheduled course time will be recorded and made available through the course website.

**Office Hours:** TBD

**Email:** ehochstein@uvic.ca

**Description:** This course will examine fundamental philosophical questions regarding the nature of the mind. Specifically: What is the relationship between the mind and the body? Is the mind nothing more than the brain, or is it something distinct? Is the brain a kind of computer? What is consciousness, and what is required for a scientific explanation of it?

**Structure:** The course will proceed primarily through online lectures. Readings for the class will all be uploaded onto the course website.

**Intellectual property of materials on the LMS website:** Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to the LMS website are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria. Do not circulate this material or post it to note-sharing sites without my permission. Posting course materials to note-sharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the Policy on Academic Integrity ([https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk\\_0xsM\\_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies](https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies)). Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

**Evaluation:** The course will be graded as follows:

- 2 mid-terms, worth 15% and 25%
- A term paper 25% (3-8 double-spaced pages);
- A final examination worth 35%.

**Policy on assignments, tests, and term papers:** Late papers will receive a deduction of 5% per day until handed in. Any exam missed without documentation of illness or family emergency will receive a 0.

**Important to Note:** Students are encouraged to consult the instructor with any problems or concerns about the course **early** in the semester.

**Grading System:**

Percentages	Letter Grade	Grade Point
90 – 100	A+	9
85 – 89	A	8
80 – 84	A-	7

An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically **superior**, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students

77 – 79	B+	6
73 – 76	B	5
70 – 72	B-	4

A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a **good** comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.

65 – 69	C+	3
60 – 64	C	2

A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an **adequate** comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities

50 – 59	D	1
---------	---	---

A D is earned by work that indicates **minimal** command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.

0 – 49	F	0
--------	---	---

F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is **inadequate** and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.

Interpretation of these grade definitions is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade during the course that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open-minded manner. Rest assured that if you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department.

For additional information regarding grades, please see pp. 51-53 of the most recent (September 2018) edition of the Uvic Undergraduate Calendar.

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to percentage scores. Letter grades and grade point scores are listed purely for reference.

Final examinations are the property of Uvic and are not returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office according to Uvic procedures and regulations (pp. 49-51 of the calendar).

Uvic is committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all members. Further information regarding Uvic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in the Uvic calendar (p. 15), but if you have any particular concerns in our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **Tentative Schedule of Readings:**

#### Week 1 (Sep 9-11): Introduction

No readings

#### Week 2 (Sep 14-18): Substance Dualism

Readings:

- Descartes, R. "Meditations on First Philosophy"
- Descartes, R. "Passions of the Soul"

#### Week 3: (Sep 21-25): Behaviourism

Readings:

- Ryle, G. "Descartes' Myth" p.32-39
- Bermúdez, J. "The reaction against behaviorism in psychology"

#### Week 4 (Sep 28-Oct 2): Type-Identity Theory

Readings:

- Smart, J.J.C. "Sensations and Brain Processes"

#### Week 5 (Oct 5-9): The Cognitive Revolution

### **Midterm 1: Oct 9**

Readings:

- Bermúdez, J. "Algorithms and Turing Machines"
- Bermúdez, J. "The Physical Symbol System Hypothesis"

Week 6 (Oct 13-16): Functionalism

Readings:

- Levin, J. "Functionalism" (Read Sections: "1. What is Functionalism?"; "3.1 Machine State Functionalism"; "3.2 Psycho-Functionalism").

Week 7 (Oct 19-23): Artificial Intelligence

**Term Paper Assigned Oct 23**

Readings:

- Searle, J. "Minds, Brains, and Programs"
- Churchland, P. & Churchland, P. "Could A Machine Think?"

Week 8 (Oct 26-30): Intentionality

Readings:

- Dennett, D. "Intentional Systems Theory"

Week 9 (Nov 2-6): Eliminative Materialism

**Midterm 2: Nov 6th**

Readings:

- Churchland, P.M. "Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes"

Week 10 (Nov 9-13): Consciousness (Part 1)

Readings:

- Blackmore, S. "What is it like to be...?"

Week 11 (Nov 16-20): Consciousness (Part 2)

**Term Paper Due Nov 20th**

Readings:

- Churchland, P. S. (1996). "The Hornswoggle Problem".

Week 12 (Nov 23-27): Embodied & Extended Cognition (Part 1)

Readings:

- Clark, A. & Chalmers, D., "The Extended Mind"

Week 13 (Nov 30-Dec 4): Spill Over and Review

No Readings

**Note on Avoidance of Academic Offenses:**

All students registered in the course are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, it will be acknowledged by disciplinary penalties. If you need help in learning how to avoid academic offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. You can find the university's Policy on Academic Integrity here:

<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>

If you are seeking editing help, please note that the university has recently adopted a strict view about seeking the help of others for editing. They say (this can be found in the link above):

An editor is an individual or service, other than the instructor or supervisory committee, who manipulates, revises, corrects or alters a student's written or non-written work.

The use of an editor, whether paid or unpaid, is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization. The instructor should specify the extent of editing that is being authorized. Review by fellow students and tutoring that do not include editing are normally permitted. In addition to consulting with their instructors, students are encouraged to seek review of and feedback on their work that prompts them to evaluate the work and make changes themselves.

**Note for students with disabilities:**

The Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>) is a fantastic resource that collaborates with all academic departments to help arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with them at the beginning of each academic term.