

**PHIL 340 – Philosophy of Mind
Spring 2022**

Instructor: Dr. Alessandra Buccella (buccella@chapman.edu)

Class place & time: Tue/Thu 11.30 am – 12.45 pm, Hashinger Science Center 019

Office hours: Tu 2.00 – 3.00 pm & Thu 10.00 – 11.00 am, SC 404 (4th floor of Hashinger building).

Course description:

This course is about a conflict between two very familiar pictures of the world and our place in it. According to one—our ordinary, unscientific picture of the world—we are creatures with *minds*. We see, hear, and feel pleasure and pain, desire and satisfaction, joy and sadness; we also think, wonder, believe, and wish; and in general we regard ourselves as subjects of a wide variety of *experiences* and *mental attitudes*. In so regarding ourselves we may believe we are like certain other creatures, for instance dogs and cats, elephants and dolphins, and perhaps even advanced forms of extraterrestrial life and artificial intelligence, each of whom we may also regard as having a sort of mind. According to the standard scientific picture of the world, however, we “minded” creatures are also fundamentally like mindless things in being physical objects. We—or at any rate our *bodies*—are ultimately made up of the same stuff as stones and plants and planets.

We are faced, then, with a difficult question: *Can mind be incorporated into a physical world?* Our aim in this course is to survey the most important philosophical theories about the mind, as well as to consider other philosophical issues arising from the scientific study of mindedness and cognition.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Recognize and articulate distinctively philosophical questions.
- Understand the broader implications of a variety of possible answers to such questions.
- Reconstruct philosophical arguments in standard form and assess them for validity.
- Compare and contrast the views of different philosophers on the same issue.
- Discuss and evaluate the significance of these views in light of personal experiences and shared knowledge.
- Have a sense of the historical background behind certain contemporary debates in philosophy of mind.
- Write concise and well-structured philosophical essays.
- Use different means of expression to approach philosophical questions in novel ways.

All the required readings are on the Canvas page of the course. You are responsible for downloading/printing them and reading them carefully before each class.

What you need to do to succeed in this course:

- Do the readings. It isn't a lot of material, so I expect you to read it carefully and come to class prepared.

- Come to class, be on time, don't leave early unless it is an emergency. If you must miss a class or part of a class due to a non-emergency, please email me in advance.
- Actively contribute to the discussions. This can be done in many ways; you don't have to raise your hand and speak up in class if you don't feel comfortable doing it. A discussion forum will be available on Canvas for all your questions and comments.
- Complete the assignments on time (for my extension policy, see below).
- Respect the teacher and your classmates. Hateful or discriminatory speech/behavior will not be tolerated.

Assignments:

2 short papers (800-1000 words) + attendance + presentation + final project (Not a paper)

Grade breakdown:

Paper 1: 15%

Paper 2: 30%

Presentation: 25%

Final project: 20%

Attendance: 10% (you are allowed one unexcused absence)

Presentations:

You are required to sign up (in groups of 2 or 3) and give a short presentation (about 20 minutes) choosing from a selection of readings. Presentations must include either a PowerPoint or a printed handout. Presenting at least once is mandatory and counts towards 25% of the final grade. Extra presentations *can* be set up as ways to make up for absences or missed assignments. However, whether to grant that possibility or not will be *at my own discretion and decided on a case by case basis*. Needless to say: if you need help, come to my office hours! You can sign up for a presentation spot on the Canvas calendar for the course.

Final project:

The final project gives you the opportunity to revisit a topic discussed in class and to create something original as your "take-home message" from the course. This assignment must NOT be a traditional essay. Acceptable projects include posters, presentations, artworks, podcasts, short videos, newspaper articles, interviews, and more: be creative!

* You can start working on your project at any point, but I need to sign off on it. *

Extensions and late assignment policy:

- I grant extensions only in well-documented exceptional circumstances.
- If you hand in your assignment late and you didn't ask for an extension, your grade will be docked 1/3 a letter grade (i.e. A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) per day (including weekends and holidays).

Special circumstances due to COVID-19 pandemic

If you experience any problems keeping up with the course or attending meetings due to coronavirus-related illness (yours or of a relative) or other circumstances (e.g. you are a healthcare or other kind of essential worker), we will find a way to accommodate you. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

Religious Commitments

If you think your religious commitments may impact your course work, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can discuss the best strategy for accommodating your needs.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please refer to the Academic Integrity section of Chapman's website for more information: <https://www.chapman.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.aspx>

Disability Services:

Students with disabilities who would like to request ADA reasonable accommodations are expected to self-disclose to Disability Services and present current documentation of the disability from an appropriate specialist or physician. All information and documentation are confidential. For more information, please visit <https://www.chapman.edu/students/health-and-safety/disability-services/index.aspx> or contact the office at DS@chapman.edu.

Miscellaneous:

Communications: You are expected to read e-mails sent your University account (username@chapman.edu) and to check the Canvas page for the course regularly. I will try to answer emails within 24 hours: if you don't receive an answer from me by then, feel free to reach out again and remind me.

Technology: Laptops, tablets, or smartphones are allowed, but *only* when specified by the instructor.

Paper feedback: I will be happy to look at your papers and final projects *once* before the due date, but I have some conditions that will save us both time and energy:

1. You *must* come to my office hours or make an appointment.
2. The paper or project must be *already written* (i.e. do not come with outlines or lists of bullet points!).
3. Prepare in advance the *specific questions* you have for me.

...And last but not least: don't forget to take care of yourself!

Tentative schedule & Readings

Week 1 (online): The “boring” stuff

02/01 Introductory lecture on argument structure
02/03 Antony, “The mental and the physical”

Week 2: The “boring” stuff, continued

02/08 Levin, “Could love be like a heatwave? Physicalism and the subjective character of experience”
02/10 Polger, “Evaluating the evidence for multiple realization”
Optional: Montero, “The body problem”

Week 3: Intentionality and representation

02/15 Grice, “Meaning”
02/17 Dennett, “Intentional systems”

Week 4: Teleofunctionalism

02/22 Millikan, “Naturalizing intentionality”
02/24 Neander, “Content for cognitive science”

Week 5: Problems for intentionalism

03/01 Bordini, “Not in the mood for intentionalism”
03/03 *First paper peer review session (come with a full draft of your paper!)*

First paper due on Sunday, 03/06, 11.59pm

Week 6: The “4E” mind

03/08 Clark & Chalmers, “The extended mind”
03/10 Froese & DiPaolo, “Sociality and the life-mind continuity thesis”

Week 7: Emotions & Knowledge

03/15 De Jaegher, “Loving and knowing”
03/17 Jaggard, “Love and knowledge”

Week 8: *Spring break (no class)*

Week 9: The Self

03/29 Parfit, “What we believe ourselves to be”
03/31 Tillemans, “What would it be like to be selfless?”

Week 10: Identity

04/05 Medina, “Identity trouble”

04/07 Brison, "Outliving oneself: trauma, memory, and personal identity"

Second paper due Sunday, 04/10, 11.59pm

Week 11: Non-human minds/1

04/12 Glock, "Animal rationality and belief"

04/14 Knoll & Rey, "Arthropod intentionality?"

Week 12: Non-human minds/2

04/19 Rowlands, "Moral subjects" + Gruen, "Empathy in mind"

04/21 Rollin, "Animal mind and animal ethics"

Week 13: Non-human minds/3

04/26 Coeckelbergh, "Humans, animals, and robots: a phenomenological approach to human-robot relations"

04/28 Big Hero 6 movie + questionnaire

Week 14: Make up/Wrap up

Guest lectures (TBA)

Week 15 (05/10 & 05/12): Presentation of final projects

Final projects due Sunday, 05/22, 11.59pm