

PHIL 340: The Philosophy of Mind
(Fall 2019)

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Class Web Page: <http://www.uclouisiana.edu/~isb9112/dept/phil340/>
Office Hours: 1pm to 4pm, Mondays and Wednesdays or by appointment.
Class Location: HLG 503
Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2.00 pm to 3.15 pm

Text: This class does not use a formal textbook. Readings that are available on-line will be used instead. This should save you a good deal of money. However, you are strongly encouraged to print out each of the readings and store them in a dedicated ring binder.

Grading:

Note Taking Exercise	5%
Mid-term Exam	30%
Final Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%
Class Participation	5%

Important things to know:

- *Reading and note taking:* All readings should be done, as far as is possible, prior to the week for which they are assigned. You are strongly encouraged to print out each of the readings and annotate them, as you read. The use of highlighter pens is strongly discouraged. You need to read *before* class, so that you will be able to understand the material being covered. In class, you should take extensive notes. Failure to do this correlates very strongly with a poor performance in exams and in the class overall. See the 'Advice on Taking Notes' link, below.
- *Plagiarism and cheating:* Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses. They are strictly forbidden in this course and will be dealt with very severely indeed (MINIMUM penalty will be an automatic F for the course). Students are advised to familiarize themselves with University Regulations on this matter, as the definitions found in section V of the UL Louisiana Undergraduate Bulletin will be applied in all cases. Note that an electronic copy of final papers will be required to be submitted on Moodle (in addition to submitting a paper copy). The electronic version of the final paper will be checked for plagiarism by the Turnitin software suite. This software checks multiple sources, including on-line sources. Failing to use quotations and citations correctly can easily result in a charge of plagiarism. For this reason, should you have any doubts, or questions, you should always consult the instructor, prior to submitting your paper.
- *Electronic Devices:* No electronic devices of any kind are permitted in the class room. This includes, but is not limited to, laptop computers, notebook computers, iPads, iPods, PDAs, and cell phones. Notes should be taken with pen and paper. However, students with impairments, or

disabilities will be accommodated. If you have any questions about this policy, please consult the instructor. If you are interested in why this policy is in place, please see: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/back-to-school/laptops-in-class-lowers-students-grades-canadian-study/article13759430/>

- *Class Attendance.* Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. If you are late for a class, then this will be recorded. If you have more than five unexcused absences (that is, you fail to attend five or more classes) during the semester, then you will automatically be assigned a grade of F for the class. Excused absences will only be given when documentary evidence of the necessity of the absence (e.g. medical certificates) are provided. Please note, if you arrive late to a class, after the attendance has been taken, then it is your responsibility to ensure that your presence is correctly recorded by talking to the professor immediately after the class has ended.
- *Research:* Please be aware that simply typing terms into Google, or other search engines does NOT constitute doing academic research. This is because anybody can put anything up on the Internet, so there is no quality control. When it comes to doing research for final papers, you will be much better off using books and journals available from the University Library. Please also be aware that there are some apparently reputable sounding sources that are available online, which are notoriously flawed. So, relying upon Internet searches may actually lead to greater confusion and misunderstandings. Please take this warning seriously. To fail to do so will adversely affect your final grade in this class.
- *Chat groups and on-line discussion systems:* You are strongly advised to avoid class chat groups and other on-line discussion systems. This is for a number of reasons. First, just because someone is another student in the class, this does not mean that they have any greater understanding of the material. Second, comments posted on such systems may turn out to be misleading, even if well intentioned. Third, if you are having problems understanding something, you are always best off making sure that you have done the relevant readings and then contacting the professor and asking. This way you are most likely to get a good understanding and not get misled. Finally, if a distinctive misunderstanding arising from a group chat is relied upon by a number of students, this may constitute a form of plagiarism.

Generally Useful Links on Taking a Philosophy Class:

-- Advice on Taking Notes

<http://www.ucslouisiana.edu/~isb9112/dept/resources/NoteTaking.pdf>

– How to Write a Philosophy Paper

<http://www.ucslouisiana.edu/~isb9112/dept/resources/howtowrite.pdf>

– Class Policy on Cell Phones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hut3VRL5XRE> (After the commercial)

– The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<http://plato.stanford.edu/>

Schedule

Week 1

Aug. 27 & 29

The Basics of Better Reasoning and Course Overview

– I. Berkeley, “Reason and Judgment: A Primer”

<http://www.ucla.edu/~isa9112/dept/resources/ReasonandJ.pdf>

– S. Downes “Stephen's Guide to the Logical Fallacies”

<https://epid.blogspot.com/2006/10/stephens-guide-to-logical-fallacies.html>

Week 2

Sept. 3 & 5

Dualism

– R. Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* II and VI

<http://www.classicallibrary.org/descartes/meditations/5.htm>

<http://www.classicallibrary.org/descartes/meditations/9.htm>

– R. Wozniak, *Rene Descartes*

<http://serendipstudio.org/Mind/Descartes.html>

Week 3

Sept. 10 & 12

The Mind-Body Problem(s)

– R. Wozniak, “The 17th Century: Reaction to the Dualism of Mind and Body”

<http://serendipstudio.org/Mind/17th.html>

– G. Ryle “Descartes Myth” (from *The Concept of Mind*, Ch. 1, pp. 11 – 23)

http://www.informationphilosopher.com/solutions/philosophers/ryle/descartes_myth.html

Week 4

Sept. 17 & 19

– Grade Check Week – Bring your class notes to an office hour this week.

– *You will need to bring the notes you have taken in all the classes up to this point to the instructor's office during office hours this week. Failing to do this will result in a loss of 5% of the potential grades in this class.*

Behaviorism

– R. Wozniak, “Behaviorism: The Early Years” (1994)

<http://www.brynmawr.edu/psychology/rwozniak/behaviorism.html>

Recommended Additional Reading:

G. Graham, “Behaviorism”

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/behaviorism/>

Week 5

Sept. 24 & 26

Identity Theory

– U.T. Place “Is Consciousness a brain process?” *General Psychology*, 47(1) pp. 44 – 50

<https://home.sandiego.edu/~baber/analytic/Place1949.html>

Week 6

Oct. 1 & 3

Note: Oct. 3 & 4 Fall Holiday, so no classes.

– Mid-Term Exam, Tues. Oct. 1st (Bring a blue book)

Week 7

Oct. 8 & 10

Functionalism

- Fodor “The Mind-body Problem” *Scientific American*, (January, 1981)
<http://users.metu.edu.tr/bozsahin/cogs517/fodorphil1.pdf>

Week 8

Oct. 15 & 17

Eliminative Materialism

- P. Churchland “Eliminative Materialism and Propositional Attitudes” *Journal of Philosophy*, 18(2), (1981), pp. 67 – 90
<http://www.sfu.ca/~kathleea/docs/Eliminative%20materialism.pdf>

Week 9

Oct. 22 & 24

Intentionality

- D. Dennett “Intentional Systems” *Journal of Philosophy*, 68, (1971) pp. 87–106.
http://www.thatmarcusfamily.org/philosophy/Course_Websites/Readings/Dennett%20-%20Intentional%20Systems.pdf
- In class video: *The Machine That Changed The World*

Week 10

Oct. 29 & 31

The Turing Test

- A. Turing “Computational Machinery and Intelligence” *Mind* 59, (1950) pp. 433 - 460
<http://phil415.pbworks.com/f/TuringComputing.pdf>

Week 11

Nov. 5 & 7

Note: Nov. 7 is the last day to drop classes with a grade of W.

Artificial Intelligence

- I. Berkeley “What is Artificial Intelligence?” (The view from twenty years ago)
<http://www.ucs.louisiana.edu/~isb9112/dept/phil341/wisai/WhatisAI.html>
- K. Hammond “What is Artificial Intelligence?”, *Computerworld* (Apr. 2015) (A modern view)
<http://www.computerworld.com/article/2906336/emerging-technology/what-is-artificial-intelligence.html>

Week 12

Nov. 12 & 14

Connectionism

- I. Berkeley, “The Curious Case of Connectionism”, *Open Philosophy*, 2, (2019), pp. 190 – 205.
<https://www.degruyter.com/downloadpdf/j/opphil.2019.2.issue-1/opphil-2019-0018/opphil-2019-0018.pdf>

Week 13

Nov. 19 & 21

The Chinese Room

– J. Searle “Minds, Brains and Programs” *Behavioural and Brain Sciences* 3(3) (1980)
pp. 417 – 457

<https://www.law.upenn.edu/live/files/3413-searle-j-minds-brains-and-programs-1980pdf>

Week 14

Nov. 26 & 28

Note: Nov. 28 & 29 are the Thanksgiving holiday, so no classes.

Extended Cognition

– A. Clark. and D. Chalmers “The Extended Mind”, *Analysis*, 58 (1998) pp. 10-23,

<http://cogprints.org/320/>

Week 15

Dec. 3 & 5

Class Summary

Final Exam: Thursday, Dec. 12th 11.00am to 1pm.