**Phil 322: Philosophy of Mind**

**Spring 2023**

Instructor: David Sorensen

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Dates: 1/18-5/3

Meeting time: Wednesday, 7:05-9:35pm  
Meeting place: Brothers College 103

Office hours: (Zoom) Wednesdays 4-5pm, Fridays 10-11 am  
Office Location: S.W. Bowne, Room 112

This course will be a survey of hot topics in philosophy of mind. We will discuss the following five topics

* Consciousness
* The relation between the mind and brain
* Personal Identity
* Animal Minds
* Artificial Intelligence

**Course Requirements**

**1.** Course readings:

**(a)** Required Textbook: Arguing about the Mind, by Lawrence Shapiro and Brie Gertler

**(b)** Supplementary readings available on Moodle

**Reading Guidelines:** You are expected to read the assigned articles and chapters **before** the class session the readings are scheduled for. However, I recommend doing the readings both before and after the class session, as the material may at times be difficult, or unclear the first time reading it. After lecture and in-class discussions, the material should be much easier to understand. The tests will assume that you have understood the readings. If you do not understand them, please send me an email or schedule an appointment with me during office hours.

**2.** Course evaluation:

**(a)** Exams: There will be to exams (midterm and final) comprised of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

**(b)** Papers: There will be two papers assigned. The first will take the form of a reading response where you will criticize and/or defend the position of a philosopher. The reading response paper should be 3-4 pages (double-spaced) in length. There will also be one long (7-10 page double spaced) paper due at the end of the semester. This paper will be an argumentative essay where you will defend and/or criticize a specific thesis. A list of suitable topics will be provided.

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| Assignment Grade Breakdown:  Reading Response: 20%  Midterm Exam: 25%  Argumentative Essay: (7-10 pages): 30%  Final exam: 25% | Grading Scale:  A 93-100  A- 90-92  B+ 87-89  B 83-86  B- 80-82  C+ 77-79  C 73-76  C- 70-72  D+ 67-69  D 65-66  F Below 65 |

**Expectations of students:**

Students are expected to carefully read the syllabus, regularly attend class, do the readings, keep notes, and complete all course assignments. Students should also regularly check your email (every day), and log onto **Moodle** to check for course updates or revised deadlines. If any problems arise, you should contact me ASAP.

**Attendance policy:**

Attendance will be taken daily, but I will not count it towards your grade. However, it is in your best interest to attend every class to both understand the readings and to do well on the exams.

**Classroom conduct:**

1. Please show up on time.
2. Please raise your hands if you’d like to contribute to the discussion or have questions/comments
3. No talking over others
4. Discussion will consist of comments, questions, and objections, not speeches
5. Respect other students, even if you disagree with their views
6. Be mindful of how your comments may affect others
7. Don’t play on your phone or disrupt the class

**Policy on electronic devices:** Laptops will be permitted only for notetaking or reading course materials (e.g. assigned readings, syllabus). Phones should not be used.

**Unexplained absences and missing assignments:**

Under most circumstances, if you do not report to me, in advance, that you will be absent or unable to submit an assignment on time, then you will not receive full credit. Assignments and exams that are not complete by December 10th will receive zeros.

**How to do well in the course:**

1. **Take the readings seriously:** There will be lots of readings assigned in this course, some of which will be quite difficult. It is best to complete all the readings *before* attending the lecture for which they are assigned. Reading philosophy can be difficult, requiring much more time and focus than readings in other fields and genres. As a philosopher, you are also not just aiming to understand what the author is saying, but whether their claims are true. Thus, a special kind of *active* reading is required to get the most out of the assigned readings. I’ve provided a Moodle module with some tips and articles on active reading (in general) and also how to read philosophical papers.
2. **Be prepared with questions and comments**
3. **Regularly check Moodle** (at least once every 48 hours) for course updates, assignments, and newly added powerpoints
4. **Attend office hours:** If questions remain after class, or some questions were not adequately addressed, office hours allow students to have continued and more focused conversations about the course content. You do not even have to come to office hours prepared with a list of questions or comments about the course. I am happy to talk with you about any topics of interest in philosophy, science, or politics.
5. **Study the sample paper and complete the optional writing and reading module**

**Detailed schedule of topics/readings (tentative)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | **Topic** | **Readings(s)** |
| Jan 18 | An Overview of Problems in the Philosophy of Mind |  |
| Jan 25 | Consciousness | Jaynes  Chalmers |
| Feb 1 | Consciousness part 2 | Churchland  Nagel |
| Feb 8 | The Mind-Body Problem:  Dualism vs. Materialism | Hart  Papineau |
| Feb 15 | Identity Theory | Polger |
| Feb 22 | Functionalism | Fodor  Kim |
| Mar 1 | Panpsychism | Chalmers |
| Mar 15 | Idealism | Kastrup |
| Mar 22 | Midterm Exam |  |
| Mar 29 | Personal Identity | Locke  Hume  Butler |
| Apr 5 | Personal Identity part 2 | Nagel  Parfit |
| Apr 12 | Animal Minds |  |
| Apr 19 | Animals Minds part 2 |  |
| Apr 26 | Robot Minds | Turing  Searle |
| May 3 | Robot Minds part 2  Screening: Blade Runner |  |
| May 10th |  |  |

**Academic Accommodations Statement**

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with the Office of Accessibility Resources (OAR), please provide me with a copy of your accommodation letter at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through the Office of Accessibility Resources (OAR), but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are encouraged to contact OAR. OAR offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions.

Although a disclosure may take place at any time during the semester, students are encouraged to do so early in the semester, because, in general, accommodations are not implemented retroactively.

Students are eligible for accommodations for online courses.

Office of Accessibility Resources contact information:Director-Dana Giroux Location-Brothers College, Room 119B Phone: 973-408-3962 Email: dgiroux@drew.edu, disabilityserv@drew.edu  **Academic Integrity Policy Statement**   
All students are required to uphold the highest academic standards. Any case of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the guidelines and procedures outlined in Drew University's [Standards of Academic Integrity: Guidelines and Procedures](http://catalog.drew.edu/content.php?catoid=37&navoid=1590#integrity), which is located in the academic policies section of Drew’s course catalog.

**Absence Policy Statement**In addition to the course attendance policy, students should be aware of their rights and responsibilities regarding absences for legitimate reasons as described in the [Absence Policy: Student Rights and Responsibilities](http://catalog.drew.edu/content.php?catoid=34&navoid=1494#attendance), which is located in the Academic Policy section of Drew’s course catalog under Attendance.

**COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols**

Masks will **not** be required in the classroom. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms you should contact Health Services. If you test positive for COVID-19 at any point during the semester, including through an off-campus or at-home test, you must notify Health Services. They will provide support and isolation instructions, as per current guidelines and policies, and your professors will be notified of the date you may return to class. If you are a close contact you should continue to attend classes. Students who are required by Drew policy to isolate will not be penalized for their absence as long as they have notified Health Services. If you are required to isolate and it may affect your coursework or attendance, please notify those instructors right away in case there is a delay in the official notification. To the extent possible, students should submit assignments electronically, stay up to date with assignments, and request notes from classmates. Students experiencing extended illnesses (i.e., greater than one week), due to the coronavirus, or other medical conditions, should contact the Associate Provost at cae-admin@drew.edu to discuss the best course of action. For more information on Drew’s covid policies, visit [Drew's Health Services](https://drew.edu/health-services/).

**Affordable Textbook Resources**

The [Gabriella D. Ramirez Textbook Lending Library](https://drew.edu/library/2021/03/24/the-student-textbook-lending-library/), housed in the Drew University Library, is a student-developed resource to assist with textbook access for students who have financial constraints. For information regarding eligibility status, please review the request form located on the Lending Library [webpage](https://drew.edu/library/2021/03/24/the-student-textbook-lending-library/). For questions, please contact the University Library at [library@drew.edu](mailto:library@drew.edu).

**Final Exam Policy Statement**

The [final exam schedule](https://drew.edu/registrars-office/about-us/registration-guide/final-exam-schedule/) is visible on the Registrar’s website by the beginning of each semester. Changes can occur, so check for updates prior to the start of the exam period. Students are expected to schedule travel plans for AFTER their final exams. If extenuating circumstances occur, students may submit a Final Exam Reschedule request for review by the Associate Provost. Students may not negotiate a make-up date directly with the course instructor. The deadline to submit a reschedule request is the last day of classes for the term. The following circumstances apply for requesting to reschedule an exam:

1. Two final exams scheduled at the same time, serious illness, or personal emergency (note that the student is required to present documentation to validate).
2. Three finals are scheduled in one calendar day: one of the exams should be rescheduled at the convenience of the instructor and the student.