

**PHIL 3375: Philosophy of Mind**  
**Dr. Jesse Butler**  
**Fall 2014**  
**CRN 19416**  
**Wednesday Nights, 6 to 9 P.M.**  
**Irby Hall 114**

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**Office Hours:** 2:30–5pm Tuesday and Thursday  
9-11am & 12 noon – 3pm Wednesday  
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**Course Description & Objectives:**

This course will survey philosophical theories of the mind, emphasizing contemporary philosophical work concerned with understanding the nature of minds and what we can (or cannot) know about them. Specific topics covered will include the mind/body problem, consciousness, intentionality, the nature of the self, artificial intelligence, perception, dreams, “out of body” experiences, the extended mind hypothesis, and scientific investigation of the mind. Students will learn about a variety of different perspectives concerning these interrelated issues and will be encouraged to critically analyze and reflect upon them in developing their own thoughts on the nature of the mind. Philosophy majors and minors may take this course to fulfill 3 credit hours in the required “Epistemology & Metaphysics” area or as a general elective. Cognitive Neuroscience minors may take this course to fulfill 3 credit hours of required coursework. Other interested students may take the course as well, but should be aware that the course may not fulfill any particular curriculum requirements.

**Required Texts:**

- *Theories of Mind: An Introductory Reader*, edited by Maureen Eckert, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers 2006
- *The Ego Tunnel: The Science of the Mind and the Myth of the Self*, by Thomas Metzinger, Basic Books 2009
- *Natural-Born Cyborgs: Minds, Technologies, and the Future of Human Intelligence*, by Andy Clark, Oxford University Press 2003

**Suggested Supplementary Websites:**

- Dictionary of Philosophy of Mind: <https://sites.google.com/site/minddict/>
- Field Guide to the Philosophy of Mind: <http://host.uniroma3.it/progetti/kant/field/>
- The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>
- philpapers Philosophy of Mind: <http://philpapers.org/browse/philosophy-of-mind>

## Reading Assignments

Reading assignments will be regularly announced in class as we progress through the semester. Students will be expected to complete reading assignments before the class for which they are assigned. Class discussions, exercises, and assignments (including unannounced reading quizzes), will be dependent upon the assigned readings. Completing these assignments on time is an essential component of the class, so be sure to keep up with the readings as we go along. Reading philosophy can be difficult, but here are some general suggestions to help you with it:

**Be prepared to read the material more than once:** Even experienced philosophers need to re-read material, sometimes numerous times, so do not expect yourself to fully grasp all of the ideas in a piece of philosophy the first time you read it. It is sometimes helpful to first do a relatively quick read of a philosophical work without getting bogged down in the details, just to get a “big picture” grasp of the ideas and concepts it covers. Then you can go back over the material in more detail to get a fuller understanding of the author’s thoughts. In addition, I encourage you to read the material again after we have discussed it in class. With the major ideas having been explained and discussed, you will likely obtain an even deeper understanding and grasp of the material.

**Actively engage with the material:** Reading philosophy is not like many other kinds of reading, where you just passively take in the information being presented. Instead, you should actively think about what you are reading. As you read, try to grasp, analyze, and assess the author’s reasoning. Don’t be afraid to pause, think, and ask questions. Take notes on the thoughts and questions that you have as you read, and bring them to class for discussion and clarification. One goal of this class is to develop your ability to read and understand difficult material, so feel free to ask questions about the material and about how to approach the reading in general as we go along.

**Draw upon additional resources:** Reading additional information about a concept, issue, argument, or philosopher can often be very helpful to clarify, deepen, and broaden your understanding and grasp of the assigned reading material. I encourage you to make use of additional resources throughout this course, with the suggested websites listed above providing a number of good starting points to do so. If you are puzzled by or interested in a particular topic and would like to know where to look for more information about it, don’t hesitate to ask me about it. Also, don’t be afraid to chart out new research territory on your own, and incorporate whatever you find into class discussion and assignments. This can include not only philosophical writings, but also scientific research in a number of domains (neuroscience, evolutionary biology, cognitive and social psychology, linguistics, computer science, anthropology, sociology, physics, and more), fiction, films, and other resources. The more information and research you can integrate with the issues and materials we cover in this course, the more you will get out of it. So, I encourage you to actively and creatively explore additional resources to integrate into your understanding of the mind. Of course, you should always accompany your research with a healthy dose of critical reflection and comparative analysis as well.

## Course Requirements

Attendance & Participation:	25% of total grade
Short Assignments:	25% of total grade
Reading Exams:	25% of total grade
Philosophical Essay:	25% of total grade

**Attendance & Participation:** Philosophy is an activity. Accordingly, class attendance and participation is required and will count towards 25% of your total grade. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester and **students who are not present in class at the time attendance is taken will have an absence recorded**. I will also monitor student participation and adjust this portion of your grade by two letter grades, in accordance with your level of participation throughout the semester. For example, if you have good attendance but never participate in class discussion, you will receive only an average C for this portion of your grade. In order to receive an A or B for this portion of your grade, you must not only have good attendance but also **regularly participate in class discussion by asking questions and expressing your thoughts on class topics**. Doing so will not only improve your grade, but will also enable you to get the most out of this class, through active engagement in philosophical thought and discussion.

When calculating your final attendance grade, I will allow 2 recorded absences without penalty. Each additional absence will lower your grade by 10 points (one letter grade). If you have more than 2 justifiable absences over the course of the semester, you should talk to me about it as soon as possible. However, exceptions to the 2 absence policy will be made at my discretion, only under exceptional circumstances with written documentation that clearly justifies your absences. Students will not be dropped from this course for non-attendance. If you feel that you should drop due to missing too much of the course, it is your responsibility to do so.

**Short Assignments:** Throughout the semester I will ask you to complete various short assignments either in-class or at home, and either individually or in groups. For example, I might give a brief reading quiz that asks you to answer a few questions about the assigned reading for that day, I might ask you to write a one page essay at home on a philosophical issue, or you may be required to participate in a group exercise in class regarding a particular philosophical problem. In-class assignments will often occur without advance notice, so it is important that you keep up with the readings and regularly attend class. Short Assignment credits will be recorded on a pass / fail basis. You will be allowed two failed credits without penalty. For this reason, no make-up assignments will be allowed.

**Reading Exams:** There will be two exams (a midterm and a final) to test your understanding of the reading material and our discussion of it in class. Further details about exams will be provided in class, with sufficient advance notice for you to prepare for an upcoming exam. The average of your two exam scores will constitute 25% of your grade. You will not be allowed to use notes or the textbook during exams. If you miss an exam for a justifiable reason that you can document (with a doctor's note, for instance), it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible to discuss alternative arrangements. Make-up exams will only be allowed under exceptional, justified, and documented circumstances at my discretion.

**Philosophical Essay:** You will be required to write a substantive argumentative essay on a course-related topic of your choice. **This paper will be due at our last class meeting (Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>), at the beginning of class.** Your paper must be 8 to 12 pages long (typed, double-spaced, 12 point font). Further details about the paper assignment, including specific guidelines and grading criteria, will be provided later in class. In addition, some short assignments may be made with regard to the preparation of final papers.

## Class Conduct and Policies

**Punctuality:** You should be in your seat and ready for class at the beginning of class time. Repeated tardiness is a distraction to other students and will not be tolerated.

**Class Conduct:** While in this class, your attention should be directed towards the class. Activities unrelated to the class (texting, doing work for another class, reading a newspaper, playing a game, surfing the Internet, talking to your neighbor about things unrelated to class, etc.) are strictly prohibited during class time. Students who violate these policies may be asked to leave the classroom, and repeated violations may result in being asked to drop the class.

**Respect:** Be respectful of other students. It is O.K. to question or criticize another person's viewpoint on a class topic, but you should not criticize or attack your fellow students themselves. There is a big difference between offering a criticism of a belief or viewpoint and attacking a person with the belief or viewpoint. The former is a legitimate and important component of philosophy, while the latter is impolite and inappropriate (as well as a fallacy, the "ad hominem" fallacy). Also, I expect students to respectfully listen and attend to fellow students engaged in class discussion, whether you agree, disagree, or are indifferent to their thoughts. We can all learn from the thoughts and viewpoints of others, and one goal of this class is to foster an environment where such learning can take place.

**Academic Integrity and Misconduct:** No plagiarizing or cheating of any kind will be tolerated in this class. The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.

**Harassment:** No harassment of any kind will be tolerated in this class. If you have any questions about what constitutes harassment, check university policies in the *Student Handbook*. If you have not done so already, please familiarize yourself with all information contained in the *Student Handbook*, including the Sexual Harassment Policy and the various other policies concerning academics and the university. If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to "student-on-student" or "employee-on-student"), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on those specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit: <https://uca.edu/titleix>. \*Disclosure of sexual misconduct by a third party who is not a student and/or employee is also required if the misconduct occurs when the third party is a participant in a university-sponsored program, event, or activity.

**Disabilities:** The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Office of Disability Support Services, 450-3613.

**Emergencies:** An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents for most buildings on campus are available at <http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/>. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.

**Evaluations:** Student evaluations of a course and its professor are a crucial element in helping faculty achieve excellence in the classroom and the institution in demonstrating that students are gaining knowledge. Please evaluate this course by logging in to myUCA and clicking on the Evals button on the top right during the evaluation period at the end of the semester.