



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 683.4 Lec. 01
“Topics in the Philosophy of Mind: Philosophy and Neuroscience”

Winter Term 2016
Course Outline

Lectures: Tuesday 5:00pm-7:45pm, SA 123

Instructor: Walter Glannon

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30pm-3:30pm

Course Description

Advances in cognitive and clinical neuroscience have increased our understanding of the brain and how it enables the mind. Because of the brain-mind relation, and because the mind is the focus of many philosophical problems, questions arise about the influence of the empirical realm of neuroscience on these conceptual and normative problems. How does the brain influence the mind? Can the quality and content of our mental states be explained entirely in terms of neurons, neural networks, synapses and neurotransmitters? Or do they involve more than these? Do we need to appeal to the brain to accurately account for consciousness, free will and rational and moral agency? Or can we discuss and make progress in understanding these concepts independently of the brain? Will neuroscience fundamentally change the way we think about philosophical problems and the methods we use to analyze and potentially resolve them? This course will examine these and related questions at the intersection of philosophy and neuroscience.

Required Texts

M. R. Bennett and P. M. S. Hacker, *Philosophical Foundations of Neuroscience*. Blackwell, 2003

Georg Northoff, *Minding the Brain: A Guide to Philosophy & Neuroscience*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2014
Course Pack at “Bound and Copied”

Course Requirements

1 10-12-page paper due Tuesday February 23: 35%

1 15-20-page paper due Tuesday April 12: 50%

1 class presentation: 10%

1 1-page outline of class presentation: 5%

There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam

Letter Grade Conversion Table

98-100 = A+ 86-89 = B+ 74-77 = C+ 62-65 = D+

93-97 = A 82-85 = B 70-73 = C 58-61 = D

90-92 = A- 78-81 = B- 66-69 = C- <57 = F

Policy on Missed Quizzes and Exams

Students with medical or other extenuating reasons for not taking a quiz or exam on the designated date will not be penalized if they inform the instructor and provide him with documentation confirming the special circumstances. They can make up the quiz or exam after consultation with the instructor.

Schedule

January 12: Introduction to issues at the intersection of philosophy and neuroscience. History and evolution of philosophy, neuroscience and neurophilosophy. Readings: Bennet and Hacker, Introduction, Chapters 1-2; Northoff, Introduction, Chapters 3-4

January 19: Brain-Mind Relation—Theories. Readings: Bennet and Hacker, Chapters 3, 13-14; Northoff, Chapters 8-9.

January 26: Brain-Mind Relation—Theories. Readings: Bennett and Hacker, Chapter 13-14; Northoff, Chapters 9, 13.

February 2: Consciousness: Readings: Bennett and Hacker, Chapters 9-11; Northoff, Chapters 8, 13-14

February 9: Consciousness: Readings: Bennet and Hacker, Chapters 9-11; Northoff, Chapter 13; Revonsuo, Frith (2) Fuchs, Roskies and Zeman (in Course Pack).

February 23: Consciousness: Readings: Bennet and Hacker, Chapters 9-11; Northoff, Chapter 14; Revonsuo, Frith (2), Fuchs, Roskies and Zeman. **First Paper Due**

March 1: Free Will: Readings: Bennett and Hacker, Chapter 8; Northoff, Chapter 19; Northoff and Lipsman and Lozano (in Course Pack).

March 8: Free Will; Readings: Bennett and Hacker, Chapter 8; Northoff, Chapter 19, Northoff and Lipsman and Lozano (in Course Pack)

March 15: Rational and Moral Agency. Readings: Bennett and Hacker, Chapters 6-8; Northoff, Chapter 19.

March 22: Rational and Moral Agency: Readings: Bennett and Hacker, Chapters 6-8; Northoff, Chapter 19

March 29: Presentations

April 5: Presentations

April 12: Presentations. **Second Paper Due**

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf