Philosophy 363: Philosophy of Mind: Winter 2011
Instructor: Rachel Fredericks
Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30 to 4:20 p.m. in Denny 307
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 to 2:30, Thursdays 4:20-5:20, and by appointment in Savery 372
Email: rachef@uw.edu

Course Description:
This survey course is structured to draw attention to the historical development of philosophy of mind, emphasizing how each theory to be discussed was developed in response to the recognized shortcomings of its predecessors. We will explore questions about qualitative states, intentional states, brain states, and the relations between these states. Paper assignments are designed to build core expository and evaluative skills, and require students to complete more philosophically sophisticated tasks as the term progresses. The course is suitable for those who have taken at least one philosophy course before, especially those intending to be philosophy majors.

Your skills in philosophical reasoning will be developed in three ways:
(1) Reading Comprehension: involves carefully, closely reading all the assigned texts (many of which are dense, technical, and contain more content than we will be able to discuss in class)
(2) Philosophical Writing: involves completing a variety of written assignments
(3) Class Discussion: involves actively, respectfully engaging with your peers and instructor about philosophically complex, abstract theories

Success in this course requires you to prepare yourself for class discussion by reading critically, to defend your own views with reasons and arguments, and to give a good faith effort to develop your philosophical skills, both verbally and in writing. Previous coursework in philosophy will be extremely helpful.

Student Conduct & Academic Integrity:
I take academic honesty extremely seriously and will pursue sanctions against any student(s) caught engaging in any form of academic misconduct, in accordance with the University of Washington Student Conduct Code, which can be found at:
http://www.washington.edu/students/handbook/conduct.html#020

You can find additional information about what constitutes plagiarism/academic dishonesty at:
http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm#plagiarism

If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please ask me. Ignorance of policies regarding academic misconduct is not a legitimate excuse for inappropriate behavior.

Disability Accommodations:
Students with disabilities should contact Disabled Student Services at (206) 543-8924/V, (206) 543-8925/TTY, (206) 616-8379 (FAX), or e-mail at uwdss@u.washington.edu. If you have a letter from the Disability Services Office indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me so we can discuss the accommodations you might need for the class.
Books (required):
Other readings will be available electronically through the library’s electronic course reserve (ER).

The readings are listed by the class dates when we will begin discussing them; you should read the assigned reading prior to coming to class that day. I recommend reading for the whole week before Tuesday’s class; Thursdays sneak up very quickly in Tuesday/Thursday courses.

Schedule:
Week 1: Dualism and Behaviorism
1/4: René Descartes, “Minds and Bodies as Distinct Substances,” pp. 36-58
1/6: Behaviorism Intro, pp. 75-80 AND Hilary Putnam, “Brains and Behaviour,” pp. 96-104
1st Paper Topics Distributed

Week 2: Identity Theory

Week 3: Functionalism
1st Papers DUE

Week 4: Challenges to Functionalism/Materialism from Qualitative States/Qualia
2nd Paper Topics Distributed

Week 5: Objections to the Knowledge Argument
2/3: Terence Horgan, “Jackson on Physical Information and Qualia,” pp. 147-152 (ER)

Week 6: Challenges to Functionalism from Consciousness
2nd Papers DUE
3rd Paper Topics Distributed

Week 7: Challenges to Functionalism from Intentional States/Propositional Attitudes

**Week 8: Reduction and Multiple Realization**

3rd Papers DUE

**Week 9: Eliminativism and the Materialist Stance**
3/1: Paul Churchland, “Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes,” pp.382-400
3/3: Bas van Fraassen, “What is Empiricism and What Could it Be?” only pp. 47-61 are required (ER)

3rd Papers returned

**Week 10: Students’ Choice**
3/8: Students’ Choice: TBA
3rd Paper Revisions DUE
3/10: Students’ Choice: TBA

**Grading:**
Students must be present for the relevant class to turn in their assignments. Late work will not be given credit unless you have made prior arrangements with me. In cases of documented illness or emergency, contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Students suspected of academic misconduct will be referred to the dean, and if found by the dean to have engaged in academic misconduct, the student will receive no credit for the assignment in question, which in many cases will result in failing the course.

I do not intend to curve the grades for this course, but I will, at my discretion, give a bonus of .1 to the final decimal grade of those students who show significant improvement over the course of the term.

Participation: 5 points
Paper One: 25 points
Paper Two: 25 points
Paper Three: 35 points
Paper Three Revision: 10 points
Total: 100 points

Notice that there will not be a final exam in this course.

**Approximate Grade Conversion:**
The numbers below give you a guideline of the conversion from points to final decimal grade. I may make a small adjustment to this conversion scale, but if you earn the points listed below, you are guaranteed at least the corresponding decimal grade. That is, I will only adjust grades upward from the conversions listed below.
Points required for 3.5: 90
Points required for 2.5: 80
Points required for 1.5: 70
Points required for the minimum passing grade (.7): 60

**Writing Credit:**
One can get writing credit for this course. To be eligible for W credit, one will need to meet all the paper deadlines AND earn at least 75 points for the class as a whole. One cannot earn writing credit if one is taking the class for S/NS credit. Everyone who fulfills these requirements will automatically earn the W credit; no extra registration is necessary to receive it.