

## PHIL 1002: Mind and Will

Summer 2020

Distance Learning (Online)

Instructor: Andrew Evans

Office Hours: By appointment, video chat and phone calls are an option

### Welcome!

Online courses can be a bit strange since the teacher and students never really get to meet each other, but I want you to know that I am still available if you have any questions or concerns. My email is [evans3ah@mail.uc.edu](mailto:evans3ah@mail.uc.edu).

### Course Description:

There are two central questions of this course, 1) What is the mind? and 2) Do we have free will? All of the readings and videos will relate to one or both of these questions in one way or another. Other more specific questions we will explore are: Is the mind distinct from the brain? How does what we think the mind is relate to free will? Does it matter if everything is determined? How does free will relate to responsibility?

### Learning Goals:

When you finish the semester, you should be able to:

- Give a brief and accurate description of all the theories we discussed in the philosophy of mind and the philosophy of free will and determinism.
- Summarize a philosophy argument, accurately, clearly, and succinctly.
- Argue for your own philosophical claim, supporting your argument with *reasons*.
- Be able to reflect on the philosophy you have learned and compare it to the beliefs you came into the class with.

### Grade Scale:

A 334-360	B 298-312	C 262-276	D 226-240
A- 324-333	B- 288-297	C- 252-261	D- 216-225
B+ 313-323	C+ 277-287	D+ 241-251	F 0-215

### Point Distribution:

Weekly Responses 1-6	20 points each (120 total points)
Discussion Posts 1-12	10 points each (120 total points)
Paper Part 1	40 points
Paper Part 2 and Revision of Paper Part 1	40 points

Paper Part 3 and Revision of Paper Parts 1 and 2	40 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>360 points</b>

**Discussion Board and Discussion Posts 1-12:**

There will be a Discussion Board for the class on Canvas. I will usually be posting questions and talking with you on the Discussion Board. Each week you will contribute two posts to the Discussion Board. You could contribute: your own original thought about that week’s topic, an answer to a question that I or a classmate has posed, or a comment on something someone else has said. Each Discussion Post should be at least three sentences long, be relevant to the reading for that week, and be positive rather than disparaging. You will only get the points for the Discussion Post if it meets those three criteria. It is important for the Discussion Board to remain friendly and civil. Disagreements in ideas may take place, but the disagreements need to be respectful and open-minded. Insulting, offensive, or negative comments will not be tolerated, and will not receive points. Discussion Posts will be due Sundays at 11:59pm, unless otherwise noted.

**Weekly Responses 1-6:**

There will be six Weekly Responses, one due per week, throughout the course. The responses will consist of you answering questions about the week’s readings and videos. This is an opportunity to reflect on what you have read and demonstrate that you have read it and grappled with it. You will turn the responses in on Canvas. Responses will always be due on Sundays at 11:59pm, unless otherwise noted.

**Paper Parts 1, 2, and 3:**

There is one paper to write for this class. But it is broken down into three separate due dates. The first part of the paper is due July 12 at 11:59pm, which will be reconstructing a philosopher’s argument. The second part of the paper is due on July 26 at 11:59pm, which is the addition of your own argument. At that time, you will also turn in a revision of Paper Part 1. The third part of the paper is due on August 9 at 11:59pm, which will be the addition of objections to your argument. At that time, you will also turn in a revision of Paper Parts 1 and 2. More information will be made available as the summer progresses.

**Late Work Policy:**

No Discussion Posts can be turned in late. However, if you are having trouble getting them in on time, talk with me about that and we will try to come to a solution together.

Late Weekly Responses can be turned in up to one week after the due date and will be penalized 20%. After one week, late Weekly Responses will not be accepted.

Paper Parts 1 and 2 can be turned in up to one week after the due date as well, and they also will be penalized 20%. After the one week mark, late Paper Parts 1 and 2 will not be accepted.

Paper Part 3 will not be accepted late, unless there is some extenuating circumstance. If that happens, please talk with me about it.

In general, if you have an emergency or problem of some kind (for example a health crisis) or some other extenuating circumstance that prevents you from turning your work in on time, then please discuss this with me.

### **Academic Misconduct:**

Do not plagiarize or cheat in any way. Follow the university's policies on academic misconduct, which are linked below. If I discover that you have broken the university's policies on academic misconduct, I am required to report it. Punishments range from failing the assignment to expulsion from the university.

[Academic Misconduct](#)

### **Inclusion:**

It is my goal to make this class a safe space for people of all ages, races, national origins, ancestries, political affiliations, disability statuses, medical conditions, gender identities, gender expressions, sexes, sexual orientations, marital statuses, veteran statuses, and other forms of difference. No discrimination will be tolerated. Especially when participating in the Discussion Board, everyone should make sure to be respectful. Please let me know via email if there are any inclusion-related considerations that I should be aware of (e.g. pronouns).

### **Accessibility Resources:**

Regarding accessibility, I will do everything I can to ensure that accommodations will be made when needed.

The University of Cincinnati is committed to providing all students with equal access to learning opportunities. Accessibility Resources (formerly Disability Services) is the official campus office that works to arrange for reasonable accommodations for students with an identified physical, psychological or cognitive disability (learning, ADD/ADHD, psychological, visual, hearing, physical, cognitive, medical condition, etc.) Students are encouraged to contact Accessibility Resources to arrange for a confidential meeting to discuss services and accommodations. Contact should be initiated as soon as possible to allow adequate time for accommodations to be arranged.

[Accessibility Network](#)

[Accessibility Resources](#)

### **Other Helpful Resources:**

[Campus Life and Academic Support](#)

[Academic Writing Center](#)

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#)

[University Health Services](#)

[Gender Equity and Inclusion \(Title IX\) website](#)

[Women Helping Women](#)  
[LGBTQ Center](#)  
[UC Public Safety](#)

**Technology and Canvas:**

This class is totally online so you will need access to the internet. If you have trouble getting connected to the internet, please let me know. We will be using Canvas for this class. All readings and videos will be made available on Canvas. There is one movie to watch which you will have to get access to (Run Lola Run (1998) it is \$3.99 on YouTube). Please regularly check the Canvas page. Also, make sure you change your settings so that you get Canvas notifications and emails.

**Communication:**

The best way to communicate with me is email. My email address is: [evans3ah@mail.uc.edu](mailto:evans3ah@mail.uc.edu). I am usually able to respond to an email within 48 hours. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns you have. I am also available to meet via video chat or by telephone. If you email me, we can arrange an appointment.

Early on I will gauge interest in having optional video chat meetings for the whole class. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

**Note:**

There is no required book for the class. All readings and videos will be available on Canvas. There is one movie to watch which you will have to get access to (Run Lola Run (1998) which is for \$3.99 on YouTube). I reserve the right to change the content of the syllabus, including readings and assignments, at any time throughout the course. However, if I do so I will let you know and make every effort to give you enough time to adjust to the change.

**Schedule:**

Week	Required Readings, Videos, and Assignments
<p><b>Week 1:</b>  June 24-June 28</p> <p><b>Introduction to the mind-body problem</b></p>	<p><b>Watch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture videos</li> </ul> <p><b>Read</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Norton Introduction to Philosophy</i> “Is Mind Material?”</li> <li>• Syllabus</li> </ul> <p><b>Turn in by June 28 at 11:59pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board introduction</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 2:</b>  June 29-July 5</p> <p><b>The mind is distinct from the body</b></p>	<p><b>Watch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Where Does Your Mind Reside? Crash Course Philosophy video</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Cartesian Skepticism: Crash Course Philosophy video</a></li> <li>• Lecture videos</li> </ul> <p><b>Read</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 1: Dualism</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rene Descartes <i>Meditations</i> 1, 2, and 6</li> <li>• Gilbert Ryle “Descartes’ Myth”</li> </ul> <p><b>Turn in by July 5 at 11:59pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Posts 1-2</li> <li>• Weekly Response 1</li> </ul>
<p>Week 3: July 6-July 12</p> <p><b>The mind is not distinct from the body</b></p>	<p><b>Watch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Patricia Churchland, What is Eliminative Materialism? video</a></li> <li>• Listen to this podcast: <a href="#">Pat Churchland on Eliminative Materialism</a></li> <li>• Lecture videos</li> </ul> <p><b>Read</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 3: Identity Theory</li> <li>• <i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 5: Eliminativism and Fictionalism</li> <li>• J.J.C. Smart “Sensations and Brain Processes”</li> <li>• Patricia Churchland “Are Mental States Irreducible to Neurobiological States?”</li> </ul> <p><b>Turn in by July 12 at 11:59pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion posts 3-4</li> <li>• Weekly Response 2</li> <li>• Paper Part 1</li> </ul>
<p>Week 4: July 13-July 19</p> <p><b>Free will, determinism, and compatibilism</b></p>	<p><b>Watch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Free Will vs. Determinism: Crash Course Philosophy video</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Compatibilism: Crash Course Philosophy video</a></li> <li>• Lecture videos</li> </ul> <p><b>Read</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Norton Introduction to Philosophy</i> “Do We Possess Free Will?”</li> <li>• Elliot Sober “Freedom, Determinism, and Causality”, “A Menu of Positions on Free Will” and “Compatibilism”</li> <li>• David Hume “Of Liberty and Necessity”</li> </ul> <p><b>Turn in by July 19 at 11:59pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Posts 5-6</li> <li>• Weekly Response 3</li> </ul>
<p>Week 5: July 20-July 26</p> <p><b>Freedom and responsibility I</b></p>	<p><b>Watch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Galen Strawson—Mysteries of Free Will</a></li> <li>• Lecture videos</li> </ul> <p><b>Read</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galen Strawson “Your Move: The Maze of Free Will”</li> <li>• Harry Frankfurt “Alternative Possibilities and Moral Responsibility” and “Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person”</li> <li>• Susan Wolf “Asymmetrical Freedom” and “Sanity and the Metaphysics of Responsibility”</li> </ul> <p><b>Turn in by July 26 at 11:59pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Posts 7-8</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Response 4</li> <li>• Paper Part 2 and Revision of Paper Part 1</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 6:</b> July 27-August 2</p> <p><b>Freedom and responsibility II</b></p>	<p><b>Watch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run Lola Run (1998) (you can buy on YouTube for \$3.99)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Daniel Dennett Explains Consciousness and Free Will</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Daniel Dennett—What is Free Will?</a></li> <li>• Lecture videos</li> </ul> <p><b>Read</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel Dennett “What Is an Intuition Pump?” and “Tools for Thinking about Free Will” from <i>Intuition Pumps</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Turn in by August 2 at 11:59pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Posts 9-10</li> <li>• Weekly Response 5</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 7:</b> August 3-August 9</p> <p><b>Free will and the brain</b></p>	<p><b>Watch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Neurophilosophy and Free Will—Patricia Churchland video</a></li> <li>• Lecture videos</li> </ul> <p><b>Read</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patricia Churchland “The Big Questions: Do We Have Free Will?”</li> <li>• Adina Roskies “Neuroscientific Challenges to Free Will and Responsibility” and “How Does the Neuroscience of Decision-Making Bear on Our Understanding of Moral Responsibility and Free Will?”</li> <li>• Tamar Kushnir “The Developmental and Cultural Psychology of Free Will”</li> </ul> <p><b>Turn in by August 9 at 11:59pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Posts 11-12</li> <li>• Weekly Response 6</li> <li>• Paper Part 3 and Revision of Paper Parts 1 and 2</li> </ul>