

## PHIL 1003: Minds and Machines

Summer 2019

Class: MWF 11:00 AM - 1:40PM, McMicken Hall 250

Instructor: Andrew Evans ([evans3ah@mail.uc.edu](mailto:evans3ah@mail.uc.edu))

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:45PM - 2:45PM in McMicken Hall 257

### Course Description:

The central question of this course is this: What is the mind? At the beginning, I will ask you to write down what you think the answer is. All of the readings will relate to this question in one way or another. Other more specific questions we will explore are: Is the mind distinct from the brain? What is consciousness? Can machines think? Does it matter how we treat machines or how they treat us?

### Learning Goals:

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

- Explain a philosopher's argument in your own words, clearly, succinctly, and accurately.
- Explain your own view on a philosophical topic, clearly and succinctly.
- Defend your view and defend/refute a philosopher's view, using *reasons*.
- Relate the ideas we talk about in class to your own views.

### Grade Scale:

|              |              |              |             |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| A 93%-100%   | B 83%-86.5%  | C 73%-76.5%  | D 63%-66.5% |
| A- 90%-92.5% | B- 80%-82.5% | C- 70%-72.5% | D- 60-62.5% |
| B+ 87%-89.5% | C+ 77%-79.5% | D+ 67%-69.5% | F 0%-59.5%  |

### Point Distribution:

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Assignment 1                   | 10 points  |
| Assignment 2                   | 20 points  |
| Assignment 3                   | 20 points  |
| Assignment 4                   | 20 points  |
| Main Point and Question Papers | 25 points  |
| In-class writing               | 5 points   |
| Total                          | 100 points |

### Late Assignment and Missing Class Policy:

Late assignments can be turned in up to one week after the due date and will be penalized 20%. After one week, late assignments will not be accepted. If you have an emergency of some kind (for example illness) or some extenuating circumstance that prevents you from turning your work in on time, then please discuss this with me and we will come to a solution. If you miss class, you cannot make-up the points you missed by not doing the Main Point and Question Papers and the In-Class Writing (again if there is an emergency or some other issue, exceptions are possible).

### Main Point and Question Papers:

When you do your reading for class, your job is to figure out the main point of *each* reading. For every class, I am asking you to bring a piece of paper with a quote from *each* of the day's readings that you take to be the main point of that reading. Under each quote explain what you think the quote means (in 2-3 sentences). Then write down a question you have about the reading. During class you should use your questions as springboards for discussion with the class. It is your job to figure out the answers to your questions. Then during class, on the same piece of paper, write down what you think the answers to your questions are. At the end of the class period, you'll turn that piece of paper in for credit. Each Main Point and Question Paper is worth two points (so if you turn them all in and get full credit, it is possible to get extra credit).

### In-Class Writing:

Each I will ask you to do some writing during class. I might ask you to respond to a prompt, answer a question, write down your current view, etc. Do not think of these as quizzes, you will not be graded on accuracy. Instead these are just opportunities to explore your thoughts on the topics we are discussing. Sometimes I will set aside some class time so you can work on your writing assignments in class. Each In-Class Writing will be worth 0.5 points (so if you turn them all in and get full credit, it is possible to get extra credit).

### Assignments 1-4:

The bulk of your grade will come from four written assignments. More information will be given about the assignments as the semester goes on. You should expect that they will involve explaining the views of the philosophers that we read, engaging with the views critically, and defending what you say with *reasons*.

### 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 classroom 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. On the first day I will ask you to fill out a notecard with the name you would like me to call you and any other information you would like me to know about you (for example your pronouns). Please let me know (via email, in person, or on the notecard) if there are any other inclusion-related considerations that I should be aware of.

#### 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.

Here are some helpful links:

[Accessibility Network](#)

[Accessibility Resources](#)

#### Other Helpful Resources:

[Academic Excellence and Support Services](#)

[Academic Writing Center](#)

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#)

[University Health Services](#)

[Title IX website](#)

[Women Helping Women](#)

[LGBTQ Center](#)

[UC Public Safety](#)

#### Materials:

Because you will have to do some writing in class, you will need to bring some paper and something to write with each class. You should also bring the textbook *Philosophy of Mind* to class.

#### Technology:

You will need access to the internet for this class because I will make some readings available online and some assignments will be turned in online. If you have trouble getting connected to the internet, please let me know. As far as using devices in class goes, please follow these rules:

1. Do not text or talk on the phone in class, if you need to use your phone, leave the room.
2. You can use a laptop/tablet to take notes, but do not use it for non-class related things (e.g. Instagram). Using a laptop to shop online during class is disrespectful and distracting to your fellow students. Don't be that person.

3. When form a circle to have a discussion, everyone will need to put away their laptops and tablets.
4. Be respectful with your use of technology. You can use technology, and for some people it is very helpful. But just be cognizant of those around you and remember that you are coming to class to learn some material and engage in philosophical conversation.

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 may suggest we meet during my office hours if I think that would be an easier way to address your question or concern. I am also available to meet outside of my office hours. If you email me, we can arrange an appointment.

Required Book:

You will need to get access to Ian Ravenscroft's *Philosophy of Mind: A Beginner's Guide* (2005). It should be available to rent or buy at the bookstore. If you plan to purchase it, I recommend going online where you can probably find a used copy for \$20-\$30. Let me know if you have trouble finding or purchasing it. Other readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Schedule:

NOTE: You are required to read everything listed for class *before* coming to class that day.

| Date        | Required Reading   |
|-------------|--|
| Mon July 8  | Syllabus<br>Descartes <i>Meditations 1, 2, and 6</i><br><i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Introduction   |
| Wed July 10 | Ryle "Descartes' Myth"<br><i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 1: Dualism   |
| Fri July 12 | Skinner excerpt from <i>Science and Human Behavior</i><br><i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 2: Behaviorism                             |
| Mon July 15 | <a href="#">Assignment 1 duel</a><br>Place "Is Consciousness a Brain Process?"<br><i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 3: Identity Theory |
| Wed July 17 | <i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 4: Functionalism<br><i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 8: Physicalism and Supervience                 |
| Fri July 19 | Chalmers "Facing up to the problem of consciousness"<br><i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 11: Varieties of Consciousness               |
| Mon July 22 | Jackson "What Mary Didn't Know"<br><i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 12: Phenomenal Consciousness                                      |
| Wed July 24 | <a href="#">Assignment 2 duel</a><br>Descartes excerpt from <i>Treatise on Man</i><br>Clark <i>Minchware</i> Chapter 1: Meat Machines  |
| Fri July 26 | Turing "Computing Machinery and Intelligence"  |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
|             | <i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 6: The Computational Theory of Mind  |
| Mon July 29 | Dennett “Can Machines Think?”  |
| Wed July 31 | Clark <i>Mindware</i> Chapter 4: Connectionism<br><i>Philosophy of Mind</i> Chapter 7: Connectionism   |
| Fri Aug 2   | <a href="#">Assignment 3 due!</a><br>Aeon article “The Empty Brain”<br>Shapiro “What’s New About Embodied Cognition?”  |
| Mon Aug 5   | Asimov <i>Bicentennial Man</i> Parts I-X<br>Anderson “Asimov’s ‘Three Laws of Robotics’ and machine metaethics”  |
| Wed Aug 7   | Asimov <i>Bicentennial Man</i> Parts XI-XVI<br>Watch this <a href="#">“Is Superintelligence Impossible?”</a> from 4:45-40:30   |
| Fri Aug 9   | <a href="#">Assignment 4 due!</a><br>Atlantic article “Ethics of Autonomous Cars”<br>Watch this <a href="#">“The Ethical Dilemma of Self-Driving Cars”</a><br>New York Times article “Meet Zora, the Robot Caregiver”<br>Watch this <a href="#">“Can Robots Take Care of the Elderly?”</a> |

NOTE: I reserve the right to modify this syllabus. I will notify you if I do so.