

PHIL 451 (2017). Philosophy of Mind. Tues & Thurs. 9:30-11:00 am. Orchard Commons 3074.

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Office hours: Tues & Thurs 11:15am-12:15pm or by appointment. Office: Buchanan E377.

This course will focus on the nature of consciousness and the self. What is consciousness and how is it related to the brain, the rest of the body, and the physical world? Can consciousness be explained in physical terms? Can there be a scientific understanding of consciousness or will consciousness remain forever mysterious? Is there a self or is the self an illusion? Guided by these questions, we will examine consciousness and the sense of self across a wide variety of states, including awake perception, dreaming, lucid dreaming, deep sleep, out-of-body experiences, dying and near-death experiences, as well as meditative states. We will draw from a wide variety of sources, including contemporary philosophy of mind, Indian philosophy, and Buddhist philosophy, as well as cognitive science, especially the neuroscience of consciousness, sleep science, and the neuroscience of meditation.

Readings

- Evan Thompson, *Waking, Dreaming, Being: Self and Consciousness in Neuroscience, Meditation, and Philosophy* (Columbia University Press, 2015). Available from the UBC bookstore. Electronic editions available at amazon.com, amazon.ca, chapters.indigo.ca, iTunes, barnesandnoble.com
- Additional readings, downloadable from Connect, the UBC Library, or the internet, as indicated.

Requirements

- Regular attendance. There will a sign-in sheet to record attendance. 10%.
- Three papers, 1500 words maximum, each worth 30%. Due dates: by 5pm on Sept. 29, Nov. 3, and Dec. 8

Paper Writing and Submission Instructions

- For the paper topics, see the handout, "Paper Topics."
- For guidelines on how to write argumentative philosophy papers, see the handout, "Essay Writing Guidelines for Philosophy Students."
- To submit your paper, email an electronic copy as an attachment to ethompsonphilosophy@gmail.com State in the Subject line the course identifier, your name, and Paper 1, 2, or 3: e.g., "PHIL451 John Smith Paper 1."
- Use evan.thompson@ubc.ca for all course-related questions; use ethompsonphilosophy@gmail.com only for submitting electronic copies of papers, as instructed above.

UBC Statement on Plagiarism

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. For further information, please see the following link about academic misconduct:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FAILURE OF THE QUIZ OR PAPER, as well as possible further disciplinary action by the University.

Cell phone and computer policy

Cell phones should be turned off during class. I encourage you to turn off your computers and to take handwritten notes. (If you need to use a computer, then it should be used only for taking notes.) There is now good evidence that you will learn better if you turn off your computer and take notes by hand. See the following articles: <http://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away> and <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/> and <https://www.psychologicalscience.org/news/releases/take-notes-by-hand-for-better-long-term-comprehension.html#.WSRsxBPYu-E>

Email Policy

The following guidelines apply to email communication during this course:

- I will make every effort to reply to legitimate email inquiries within 24 hours during weekdays but I may not respond to email during the weekend.
- Each email message should include in the Subject line the course identifier and a clear statement of purpose (e.g., PHIL 388: Question about Paper); otherwise, it may be deleted along with spam messages.
- Use evan.thompson@ubc.ca for all course-related questions; use ethompsonphilosophy@gmail.com only for submitting electronic copies of written assignments, as instructed above.

Schedule

Week 1: Sept. 5 & 7. Introduction

No class Sept 5 (Imagine UBC Day).

WDB, Prologue, Introduction & Chapter 1.

Week 2: Sept. 12 & 14. The Hard Problem of Consciousness.

Thomas Nagel, "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?" *Philosophical Review* 83 (1974): 435-450.

http://organizations.utep.edu/portals/1475/nagel_bat.pdf or

http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/maydede/mind/Nagel_Whatisitliketobeabat.pdf

David Chalmers, "Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness," *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 2 (1995):

200–219. <http://consc.net/papers/facing.html>

Week 3: Sept. 19 & 21. Attention, Perception, and Consciousness (I).

Ned Block, "Two Neural Correlates of Consciousness," *Trends in Cognitive Science* 9 (2005): 46-52.

http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/philo/faculty/block/papers/final_revised_proof.pdf

Michael A. Cohen and Daniel C. Dennett, "Consciousness Cannot Be Separated from Function" *Trends in*

Cognitive Science 15 (2011): 358-364. <http://michaelacohen.files.wordpress.com/2009/08/1-s2-0-s1364661311001252-main.pdf>

Week 4: Sept. 26 & 28. Attention, Perception, and Consciousness (II).

WDB, Chapter 2.

Week 5. Oct. 3 & 5. The Stream of Consciousness: Continuous or Discrete?

Evan Thompson, "Is Consciousness a Stream?" at <http://philosophyofbrains.com/2015/07/29/is-consciousness-a-stream.aspx>

Evan Thompson, "Is Consciousness a Stream? An Update," at

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/waking-dreaming-being/201509/is-consciousness-stream-update>

Week 6. Oct. 10 & 12. Pure Awareness.

WDB, Chapter 3.

Week 7: Oct. 17 & 19. Dreaming.

WDB, Chapter 4.

Week 8: Oct. 24 & 26. Lucid Dreaming.

WDB, Chapter 5.

Daniel C. Dennett, "Are Dreams Experiences?" *Philosophical Review* 85 (1976): 151-171.

<http://dl.tufts.edu/catalog/tufts:ddennett-1976.00001>

Kathleen Emmett, "Oneiric Experiences" *Philosophical Studies* 34 (1978): 445-450. (UBC Library)

Daniel C. Dennett, "The Onus Re Experiences: A Reply to Emmett" *Philosophical Studies* 35 (1979): 315-318. <http://dl.tufts.edu/catalog/tufts:ddennett-1979.00002>

Week 9. Oct. 31 & Nov. 2. Dreaming: Hallucination or Imagination?

WDB, Chapter 6.

Jonathan Ichikawa, "Dreaming and Imagination," *Mind and Language* 24 (2009): 103-121

Jennifer M. Windt, "The Immersive Spatiotemporal Hallucination Model of Dreaming," *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* 9 (2010): 295-316 <http://www.philosophie.uni-mainz.de/Dateien/fulltext.pdf>

Week 10: Nov. 7 & 9. Out-of-Body Experiences

WDB, Chapter 7.

Week 11: Nov. 14 & 16. Deep Sleep.

WDB, Chapter 8.

Week 12. Nov. 21 & 23. Dying and Death.

WDB, Chapter 9.

Thomas Nagel, "Death," from *Mortal Questions*, pp. 1-10. Cambridge University Press, 1979.

<http://dbanach.com/death.htm> or http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/maydede/mind/Nagel_Death.pdf

Thomas Nagel, "Birth, Death, and the Meaning of Life" (Connect)

Week 13. Nov. 28 & 30. The Self.

WDB, Chapter 10.

Thomas Metzinger, "The No-Self Alternative," in Shaun Gallagher, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of the Self*, pp. 279-296. Oxford University Press, 2011. http://www.verereventlab-ub.org/sharedDocs/Metzinger_OHS_2010.pdf