

Sabancı University
SPRING 2021

PHIL 310: PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Instructor: Elif Yavnik

Monday 16.40-18.30

Wednesday 16.40-17.30

email: eyavnik@sabanciuniv.edu

Office Hour: by appointment, via Zoom

Course Description

This class explores various questions in philosophy of mind. The first part of the course focuses on the historical background and provides an account of the development of the conceptions of the soul, mind-body interaction, emotions, and consciousness. The second part then examines recent or contemporary debates on behaviorism, materialism, functionalism, eliminativism, consciousness, emotions, artificial intelligence, and possibilities of mind-uploading.

Course Requirements and Grading

The final grade will be based on one midterm, one final, attendance, in-class unannounced quizzes, and a group presentation with percentages shown below. There will also be opportunities to earn extra credit points. Participation in class discussions is highly encouraged.

ATTENDANCE %10

IN-CLASS QUIZZES: %20

GROUP PRESENTATION %10

MIDTERM EXAM %30

FINAL EXAM %30

EXTRA CREDIT: HOMEWORKS AND/OR QUIZZES

Attendance:

The course will be held synchronously on Zoom. Please keep your cameras on during class. Students are expected to attend the synchronous Zoom lectures, discussions, and real-time online exams with their SU email account.

Attendance will be taken during all live sessions on an hourly basis. Attendance follow-up starts at the end of the add-drop period.

After 3 unexcused absences your attendance grade will fall 1 point with every unexcused absence. (That is to say, with 4 unexcused absences you get a 9/10, with 5 you get 8/10, etc.)

Absences for medical reasons are excused when documented with a doctor's report. An absence may also count as excused in case a life situation that you need to attend arises: in such cases please email me beforehand, if possible.

In-class Quizzes:

There will be unannounced quizzes during class time. There will be no make ups for missed quizzes. If a student is absent on the day we have a quiz but they have emailed me before class to let me know about their excuse, that quiz will not be included in their quiz average. Anyone who is absent without an excuse will automatically get a zero on that quiz.

Presentations: At the end of the semester we will have student presentations. Students will form groups and choose their own presentation project on a subject that interests them and that is related to philosophy of mind. The groups are to let me know their members and submit a one-page outline of their presentations by April 23rd.

The presentations are to show that the group has *worked together* on the topic. They are to: explain how the topic that they are addressing is related to philosophy of mind; explain the research they conducted; present in detail the resources they chose to use; talk about what the group thought and discussed about these resources, what they found enlightening, interesting, challenging, and/or confusing; and offer two or three questions to open the reading up to discussion. They are expected to take around 25 minutes, including discussion time.

Midterm and Final Exams:

For proctored exams, your webcam and microphone should be on during the exam. In the case of non-compliance with this and other declared exam procedures, your exam will be void. Make sure to check that your webcam and microphone function properly before the exam.

Extra Credit:

Throughout the semester we will have an undetermined number of homeworks and/or unannounced quizzes for extra credit.

Participation in class:

Thoughtful and meaningful participation in class is highly encouraged. Outstanding contribution to class and proof of engagement with the class material beyond class requirements may bring your final course grade up by half a letter (thus bringing it up from a B- to a B, for example), at the instructor's discretion.

Point to letter grade conversion chart:

A 100-94
 A- 93-90
 B+ 89-87
 B 86-84
 B- 83-80
 C+ 79-77
 C 76-74
 C- 73-70
 D+ 69-65
 D 64-60
 F 59-0

Academic Integrity

The Philosophy of Mind course does not tolerate dishonesty and plagiarism. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fraud, and any failure to cite all materials and sources in your work. Plagiarism is an ethical and academic offense. In case the instructor suspects that an exam is not student's original work, the student will be given an oral examination.

Papers with plagiarism issues will be graded F, and your semester grade may be F depending on the severity of the offense.

The offense may also be referred to as the University Ethics Committee.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

The classroom will be free from all discrimination based on, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, language, disability, gender, and sexual orientation. The students are expected to maintain this environment.

Special Needs

It is the policy of Sabancı University to accommodate students with special needs and disabilities. To determine accommodations and/or academic adjustments, please let us know and contact the Disabled Students Support Unit of CIAD (specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu).

Reading and Course Schedule

All the readings will be made available on SUCourse.

N.B. The reading list and the course schedule are tentative and subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to be up to date with the reading and work requirements.

22 February: No reading

24 February: No reading

1 March: selection from Plato, *Phaedo*

3 March: selection from Ibn Sina (Avicenna), *The Psychology of the Book of Healing: On the Soul*

8 March: selection from Descartes, *Meditations*

10 March: selection from Descartes, *Passions of the Soul*

15 March: selection from Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

17 March: selection from Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*

22 March: selection from Spinoza, *Ethics*

24 March: selection from Spinoza, *Ethics*

29 March: selection from Ryle, *The Concept of Mind*

31 March: No reading – Catching up and review for midterm exam

5 April: No reading – Midterm

7 April: No reading – Going over the midterm exam questions

12 April: J. J. C. Smart, “Sensations and Brain Processes”

14 April: “Machine Functionalism” from Kim, *Philosophy of Mind*

19 April: “Eliminative Materialism” from Churchland, *Matter and Consciousness*

21 April: “The Self” from Blackmore, *Consciousness*

26 April: Chalmers, “Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness”

28 April: Hauskeller, “My Brain, My Mind, and I: Some Philosophical Assumptions of Mind-Uploading”

3 May: selection from Damasio, *The Strange Order of Things*

5 May: selection from Damasio, *The Strange Order of Things*

10 May: NO CLASS – HOLIDAY

12 May: NO CLASS – HOLIDAY

17 May: Presentations (2)

19 May: NO CLASS – HOLIDAY

24 May: Presentations (2)

26 May: No reading - Catching up and review for the final exam