

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Philosophy

**Philosophy 246G:
Introduction to Philosophy of Mind**

Instructor: Robert J. Stainton

Class Days and Hours: MWF, 2:30-3:20 p.m.
(UC204)

Office: Talbot 412

Phone: ext. 85770

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Email: rstainto@uwo.ca

Web Site: <http://publish.uwo.ca/~rstainto/>

Students are responsible for following the Philosophy Department procedures included with this outline.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to philosophy of mind, drawing on contemporary and some historical sources. Topics may include: philosophical and empirical approaches to the mind; what makes something mental; varieties of dualism and materialism; free will; other minds; survival after death.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

A. Brook & R. Stainton (2000). *Knowledge and Mind*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

P. Morton (1997). *A Historical Introduction to Philosophy of Mind*. Peterborough:
Broadview Press.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

First “very short” assignment (1000 words): 25%. [**Due February 5th at 4:30 p.m.**]

Second “short” assignment (1500 words): 35%

Final exam: 40%

Submission Guidelines:

- In conformity with departmental policy, all written work must be submitted to *turnitin.com*.
- A hard copy of the paper should be handed to the Instructor, or should be placed in the Drop Box across from the Philosophy Office.

COURSE CONTENT

I. Introductory Concepts and Ancient Precursors

A. Introduction

Brook & Stainton, Ch. 1

Brook & Stainton, Ch. 2, §§1-2

B. Ancient Precursors

Plato, *Phaedo*

Aristotle, *On the Soul* and *Sense and Sensibilia*

II. Metaphysics of Mind in the Early Modern Period

A. Introduction

Brook & Stainton, Ch 4

B. Cartesian Dualism

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Descartes, *Discourse on Method*

Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy*

Arnauld, *Objections to Descartes' Meditations*

Descartes, *Reply to Antoine Arnauld*

Brook & Stainton, Ch 5, §§1-4

C. Early Modern Materialism and Idealism

Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge*

III. Contemporary Metaphysics of Mind

A. Introduction

Brook & Stainton, Ch. 5, §§5-7

B. Identity Theory

Armstrong, "The Nature of Mind"

Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes"

C. Functionalism

Putnam, "The Nature of Mental States"

Fodor, "Something on the State of the Art"

Fodor & Block, "What Psychological States are Not"

D. Eliminative Materialism

Rorty, *Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature*

Churchland, *Neurophilosophy*

IV. Free Choice

Brook & Stainton, Ch. 6

V. Knowledge of Minds

Brook & Stainton, Ch. 7

Ryle, *The Concept of Mind*
Malcolm, "Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations"

THIS OUTLINE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, GIVEN SUFFICIENT PRIOR NOTICE.
You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Antirequisite: the former Philosophy 332E