

Philosophy of Psychology, PHI 3451, Fall 2016

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 p.m., Psychology Building (PSY) 226

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Mundale

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Office hours: M/W 2:00-4:00, by appointment, online chats as needed (class and individually).

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The message below is from The Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs:

“As of Fall 2014, all faculty are required to document students’ academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course.... Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.”

Required Academic Activity: **Take the “Attendance Verification Quiz”**, in Quizzes area of course website. This quiz will not count toward your course grade. It opens Wednesday, August 24, and closes Wednesday, August 31.

Course description

Philosophy of Psychology is an advanced, upper-level course in philosophy, and will be structured and paced accordingly. In this course we will examine the philosophical foundations and assumptions of major schools of psychology, including Cartesian dualism, naturalized approaches to the mind (James), Freudianism, behaviorism, developmental psychology, and cognitivism. The end of the course is usually reserved for special topics, such as discussions of *Nature via Nurture* (Matt Ridley), the Philosophy of Clinical Psychology, what we can learn from unusual/brain trauma cases (Oliver Sacks and Ramachandran’s works, for example), ethical issues in Psychology, psychosurgery, and others.

Prerequisites

Junior standing or above, or permission of instructor. A background in philosophy and/or psychology is strongly recommended.

Required Texts

Excerpts from Owen Flanagan’s text, *The Science of the Mind*, 2nd ed., will be available free of charge, through the course website. It is not necessary for you to purchase this text, but you are welcome to do so if you prefer to read your own hard copy. Please make sure you have the second edition of the text. Additional readings may be distributed later in the semester.

“M” Mode

This is an “M” or mixed-mode course, meaning that it is partly a face-to-face course and partly an online course. The online portion comes to you through Canvas, the online course system of the university. In

order to take this course, you must have regular online access, reasonable facility with Canvas, the ability to send and receive e-mail on a regular basis, and basic internet navigating abilities.

Grading

The grade for the course is based on the following components:

Two In-Class Exams: 50% (25% each)

7 Online Quizzes (short): 15% (3% each, keep best 5 of 7).

Final Exam, In-Class, Cumulative: 35%

Note: I will use the +/- grading system (A, A-, B+, B, B-, etc.)

Requirements

1) Exams. There will be two, mixed-format, in-class exams during the semester, seven short, online quizzes (described below), and a cumulative final exam. You do not need a bluebook or a scantron sheet for any quiz or exam. Missed quizzes or exams will result in a score of zero for that quiz or exam.

2) Quizzes. Through Canvas you will have seven short, online quizzes, each of which will address *upcoming* readings, shortly before they are addressed in class. These quizzes will not only provide incentive for completing the reading before class, they will also help you to key on the central ideas of each reading. You may use your textbooks (open book/open note) for these quizzes. Since the quizzes are to be taken before the reading is discussed, they will, understandably, be shorter and more basic than the in-class exams. Quizzes will usually open on Friday and close the following Wednesday. You are not required to take any quizzes on the weekends – they are open for four weekdays – but it is open for those who wish to take them then. There are no makeups for these quizzes; however, you may drop your lowest two of the seven (keep best five).

3) Email Requirements. In order to complete this course, you must have a functional e-mail account that you check regularly; more specifically, you must regularly check your Knight's email. Some class announcements and some reading materials will be distributed exclusively through e-mail. It is up to you to insure that you receive them, and you are responsible for the contents of class e-mailings. Please note that UCF regards your Knight's email as your official address for your classes and for other information that the university may send you.

4) Attendance. This is an upper-level course, so your attendance, preparation, and thoughtful participation are an important component of the class. The assigned readings are intended to stimulate thoughtful discussion, questions, and observations. Your physical presence for the face-to-face component is essential to your understanding of the material. I do not post class notes of the face-to-face lectures and discussions; you are responsible for taking your own notes, and are responsible for anything that is said in class. If you have to miss class, you will need to get the notes from a reliable student. Finally, you are required to maintain positive and reasonable class decorum (see below). In other words, be respectful of the intellectual endeavors of others as well as your own.

5) Class Decorum. Everyone is expected to maintain positive classroom decorum. Disruptive or discourteous behavior, including repeated lateness and/or early departures, will not be tolerated, and will result in a lower grade, failure, or outright dismissal from the course. It is rude and disruptive to leave a class in progress in order to get a drink, hit the vending machine, or take care of non-urgent matters that should have been attended to prior to class. Please avoid this behavior except in case of true emergencies; repeated instances of such behavior will lower your grade and/or result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct. If you know you will have to leave class early, please mention it to me at the start of the class. Consider what your general behavior and attitude convey about you, particularly to those who may know little else about you outside of the classroom. This is my personal policy, and it is

consistent with university policy. The following excerpt from the undergraduate catalogue (Academic Regulations and Procedures) is reproduced here for your information: "Students are responsible for maintaining classroom decorum appropriate to the educational environment. When the conduct of a student or group of students varies from acceptable standards and becomes disruptive to normal classroom procedures, the instructor has the authority to remove the offending party from the room and refer the student to the Office of Student Conduct (SRC 155) for disciplinary action."

Lateness on test days

Students who arrive late for an in-class exam will not be allowed to take the exam unless no student has yet left the classroom. If no student has left the room, you will be allowed to take the exam without any penalty to your grade, but you will not be given extra time to complete it. Please plan to arrive early on exam days to prevent this difficulty; I do not enjoy telling students they cannot take an exam.

Makeup policy

I will generally not allow makeups except in documented, exceptional circumstances. Additionally, you must contact me within 3 calendar days of the missed exam in order for me to consider granting a makeup: note that "contact" means actually discussing the matter with me, not merely leaving me a message or an e-mail. If granted, the make-up will be more difficult than the original that was missed, and likely will be given at the end of the semester. Alternatively, if you anticipate having to be absent on an exam day, and have a legitimate reason for your absence, see me well ahead of time, and if possible, I will arrange for you to take it early. Unexcused absence from an exam will result in a score of zero for the missed exam.

Academic Dishonesty

I do not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty and will punish cheaters to the fullest extent allowed through the Office of Student Conduct. If you don't have enough integrity to do your own work, drop the class now and re-examine your purpose in life and at UCF. University Guidelines can be found here: Golden Rule (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/conduct.html>)

Course Schedule (May vary slightly depending on class progress)

Week One (meet Wednesday, August 24):

Introduction to Class, Syllabus, Student Survey, introduce Ch. 1 of Flanagan text.

Quiz 1 (over Ch. 1) opens Thursday, August 25, closes Wednesday, August 31.

Week Two (meet Wednesday, August 31):

Flanagan, Ch. 1, "Minds and Bodies: René Descartes..." .

Quiz 2 (over Ch. 2) , opens Thursday, September 1, closes Wednesday, September 7.

Week Three (meet Wednesday, September 7):

Finish Flanagan, Ch. 1, "Minds and Bodies: René Descartes..." .

Begin Flanagan, Ch. 2, "Naturalizing the Mind", William James

No quiz this week.

Week Four (meet Wednesday, September 14):

Continue Flanagan, Ch. 2, "Naturalizing the Mind", William James

Quiz 3 (over Ch. 3) opens Thursday, September 15, closes Wednesday, September 21

Week Five (meet Wednesday, September 21):

Finish Flanagan, Ch. 2, "Naturalizing the Mind", William James
Begin Flanagan, Ch. 3, "Science and the Secret Self", Freud
No quiz this week.

Week Six (meet Wednesday, September 28):

Finish Flanagan, Ch. 3, "Science and the Secret Self", Freud
Review, No quiz this week.

Week Seven (meet Wednesday, October 5):

EXAM 1 over Chapters 1, 2, 3 of Flanagan text.

Quiz 4 (over Ch. 4), opens Thursday, October 6, closes Wednesday, October 12

Week Eight (meet Wednesday, October 12):

Flanagan, Ch. 4, "The Science of Behavior", B.F. Skinner, pp. 83-104 and 112-117 only (**skip section on "the Operant"**).

No quiz this week.

Week Nine (meet Wednesday, October 19):

Begin Flanagan, Ch. 5 "The Case for Cognitive-Developmental Psychology" (Piaget), pp. 119-133 only (**skip Kohlberg**)

Quiz 5 (over Ch. 5) opens Thursday, October 20, closes Wednesday, October 26

Week Ten (meet Wednesday, October 26):

Finish Flanagan, Ch. 5, "The Case for Cognitive-Developmental Psychology" (Piaget), pp. 119-133 only
No quiz this week.

Week Eleven (meet Wednesday, November 2):

Special Topic #1, TBA

Week Twelve (meet Wednesday, November 9):

Special Topic #2, TBA

Week Thirteen (meet Wednesday, November 16):

Special Topic #3, TBA

Quiz 6, over Special Topics, opens Thursday, November 17, closes Wednesday, November 23.

Week Fourteen (meet Wednesday, November 23, Thanksgiving Eve):

Special Topic #4, NOVA Documentary Film, *The Lobotomist*

Quiz 7, over *The Lobotomist*, opens Wednesday, November 23, closes Wednesday, December 7

Week Fifteen (meet Wednesday, November 30, Last Class before Final Exam):

EXAM 2 (cumulative back to where Exam 1 material ended, or all material back to and including Flanagan, Ch. 4, then everything forward to end of course).

Final Exam (cumulative):

4:00 PM – 6:50 PM, Wednesday, December 07, 2016, in PSY 226

***** PLEASE NOTE that the final exam time is earlier than our regular class meetings were! *****

Fall 2016 UCF Holidays and Other Important Dates

August 25, 11:59 p.m., is Drop & Swap Deadline

August 26, 11:59 p.m., is Add deadline.

September 5, Labor Day Holiday (no classes).

Last Day to Withdraw: Monday, October 31, 2016 11:59 p.m.

November 11, Veteran's Day (no classes).

November 24-26, Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes).

Classes End: Saturday, December 3.

Final Exams: December 6-12.

Fall 2016 Academic Calendar: <http://calendar.ucf.edu/2016/fall>