

Philosophy of Psychology, PHI 3451, Fall 2018

M/W 12:30-1:20 p.m., PSY 111

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Mundale

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Office hours: M/W 1:30-3:30, and 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.”

To document your activity, take the “**Attendance Verification Quiz**”, in the Quizzes area of course website. This quiz will not count toward your course grade. It is open the first week of class.

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 vs. Nurture, 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.

3) Email Requirement. In order to complete this course, 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. I will not allow any makeups for the quizzes for the following reasons: 1) You are allowed to drop your two lowest quizzes, 2) You have at least 5 days in which to take each quiz, and 3) the answers are released and quizzes graded immediately after they close. Missing a quiz or even two, therefore, assuming you do well on the rest, will not harm your grade.

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. \(http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf\)](http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf)

Technical Resources

For further assistance:

- UCF Home Page - a search will help find UCF resources - <http://www.ucf.edu>
- Helpdesk - <http://helpdesk.ucf.edu/> - You can also call the helpdesk at 407-823-5117.
- Techrangers - <https://techrangers.cdl.ucf.edu/>, or 407-823-3808
- Learning Online - <http://learn.ucf.edu> This URL also includes access to information on study skills for distance learners, the library and the writing center.

If your own equipment fails, there are many computer labs on campus and virtually every public library offers Internet access.

Important Dates on the UCF Academic Calendar

Last Day to Drop and Request Full Refund	Thursday, August 23, 2018
Drop/Swap Deadline on myUCF	Thursday, August 23, 2018 11:59 PM
Add Deadline on myUCF	Friday, August 24, 2018 11:59 PM
Withdrawal Deadline	Friday, October 26, 2018 11:59 PM
Classes End, Last Day to Remove Incomplete	Saturday, December 1, 2018
Final Examination Period	Monday, December 3 - Saturday, December 8, 2018
Grades Due From Faculty (at 12 noon)	Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Holidays

Labor Day	Monday, September 3, 2018
Veterans Day	Monday, November 12, 2018
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 22, 2018 -Saturday, November 24, 2018

Course Schedule

- Listed readings are to be completed before their scheduled class in order to make best use of class time.
- Only quizzes are taken online; exams are taken in class.

Week 1

M August 20: Introduction to Class, Syllabus, Student Survey, introduce Ch. 1 of Flanagan text.
W August 22: Continue Ch. 1 of Flanagan, “Minds and Bodies: René Descartes...”. Quiz 1 opens.

Week 2

M August 27: Continue Ch. 1 of Flanagan, “Minds and Bodies: René Descartes...”. Quiz 1 closes.
W August 29: Finish Ch. 1 of Flanagan, “Minds and Bodies: René Descartes...”. introduce Ch. 2. Quiz 2 opens.

Week 3

M September 3: Labor Day holiday
W September 5: Flanagan, Ch. 2, “Naturalizing the Mind”, William James. Quiz 2 closes.

Week 4

M September 10: Continue Ch. 2, “Naturalizing the Mind”, William James.
W September 12: Finish Ch. 2, “Naturalizing the Mind”, William James. Quiz 3 opens.

Week 5

M September 17: Ch. 3 of Flanagan, “Science and the Secret Self”, Freud. Quiz 3 closes.
W September 19: Continue Ch. 3 of Flanagan, “Science and the Secret Self”, Freud.

Week 6

M September 24: Continue Ch. 3 of Flanagan, “Science and the Secret Self”, Freud.
W September 26: Continue Ch. 3 of Flanagan, “Science and the Secret Self”, Freud.

Week 7

M October 1: Review for Test 1
W October 3: Test 1, in class, over Flanagan, Chs. 1, 2 and 3. Quiz 4 opens.

Week 8

M October 8: Flanagan, Ch. 4, “The Science of Behavior”, B.F. Skinner, pp. 83-104 and 112-117 only (skip section on “the Operant”). Quiz 4 closes.
W October 10: Continue with Flanagan, Ch. 4, “The Science of Behavior”.

Week 9

M October 15: Finish Flanagan, Ch. 4, “The Science of Behavior”.
W October 17: Flanagan, Ch. 5, “The Case for Cognitive-Developmental Psychology” (Piaget only), pp. 119-133. Quiz 5 opens.

Week 10

M October 22: Continue Flanagan, Ch. 5 (Piaget only). Quiz 5 closes.
W October 24: Continue Flanagan, Ch. 5 (Piaget only).

Week 11

M October 29: Finish Flanagan, Ch. 5, begin Special Topics (TBD)

W October 31: Special Topics (TBD)

Week 12

M November 5: Special Topics (TBD)

W November 7: Special Topics (TBD)

Week 13

M November 12: Veteran's Day holiday.

W November 14: Special Topics (TBD)

Week 14

M November 19: Special Topics (TBD)

W November 21: This class is one day before Thanksgiving. There will be class, but it will consist of an in-class extra-credit opportunity.

Week 15

M November 26: Review for Test 2.

W November 28: Test 2 (in class).

FINAL EXAM, IN CLASS. We were not assigned a standard exam time in the University schedule, so I requested an exam time from the Registrar. I will announce it when I receive it.

* * * The final exam is cumulative and will not be dropped. * * *