

PHIL - 1334 - Minds and Machines

3e. UH Core - Revising Existing Course to add to Core or Revise Existing Core Course and remain in Core (UGRD only)

1. Course Ownership/Implementation/Justification

Department **Philosophy**

Required Approval Steps*

- Undergraduate Studies Department Committee Review
- Undergraduate Studies Department Chair/Program Director
- Undergraduate Studies College Curriculum Committee

Will the course be cross-listed with another area?*

- Yes
- No

If yes, has an agreement with department(s) been reached?

- Yes
- No

Department(s) and Course(s) that will be cross-listed with this course

Catalog year of implementation*

- 2016 - 2017
- 2017 - 2018

Justification(s) for Adding/Revising Course for Core*

1c. Change course title

Term(s) Course will be TYPICALLY Offered:*

- Fall (including all sessions within term)
- Spring (including Winter Mini all sessions within term)
- Summer (including Summer Mini and all sessions within term)
- Contact Your Academic Advisor

State the rationale

for creating this
new Core course
or revising the
existing Core
course:*

New title better reflects course content

Justification - if
"other" selected
above:

2. Course Catalog Information

Instructional Area/ Course Prefix* PHIL

Course Number 1334

Long Course Title* Minds and Machines

Short Course Title (30 character limit)* Minds and Machines

Instruction Type* Lecture ONLY

Lecture* 3

Lab* 0

Course Credit Level* Freshman

Grade Option* Letter (A, B, C.....)

Can this course be repeated for credit? Yes No

If Yes, how often and/or under what conditions may the course be repeated?

Maximum number of credit hours required of this course in degree plan* 3.0

Number of course completions (attempts) allowed* 3

Are multiple enrollments allowed for course within a session or term? Yes No

CIP Code* 38 .0101 .00 01

- Requisite Checks in PeopleSoft (functionality within PeopleSoft)*
- Need to adjust requisite checks already in place - Begin enforcement Fall
 - Need to adjust requisite checks already in place - Begin enforcement Spring
 - Need to create requisite checks for course - Begin enforcement Fall
 - Need to create requisite checks for course - Begin enforcement Spring
 - No adjustment required - requisites not being changed
 - No requisite check desired for course at this time

Prerequisite(s)* ENGL 1303.

Corequisite(s)

Course Description Perspectives on issues from recent sciences of the mind: Is human psychology a product of evolution? Does thought depend on language? Is our visual world constructed by our brains?

Course Notes

3. Authorized Degree Program(s)/Impact Study

Is this a required course for any program (degree, certificate, or minor)?* Yes - enter additional information in field below No

If yes, for which program(s)?

Does this change cause a change in any program?* Yes - attach copy of program plan
 No

If yes, to which program(s)?

Does this change force changes in prerequisites for other courses?* Yes - enter additional information in field below
 No

If yes, which course(s) and is a proposal being submitted to reflect the change?

Impact Report*

4. Core Curriculum Information

Learning Outcomes*

Students will learn to read and understand complex philosophical texts concerning issues about the mind.

Students will gain experience at writing good, critical, analytical prose.

Students will learn to read and understand current scientific work on the mind bearing on philosophical issues.

Students will apply relevant philosophical ideas to questions of value and responsibility.

Foundational Component Area for which the course is being proposed (select one)*

Language, Philosophy, & Culture

Component Area Option (optional)

Component Area Option (b): Writing in the Disciplines

Competency areas addressed by the course*

Communication Skills

Critical Thinking

Personal Responsibility

Social Responsibility

Critical Thinking, if applicable

Students will write a paper requiring them to analyze and explain a philosophical problem, to evaluate possible solutions, and to explore its implications for how we should behave and think about our relations to one another and the world. Student papers will be posted in an appropriate location on line.

Communication Skills, if applicable

In the same paper, students will demonstrate communication skills.

Empirical & Quantitative Skills, if applicable

Teamwork, if applicable

Social

Responsibility, if applicable

In the same paper, students will explore issues of social responsibility

Personal Responsibility, if applicable

In the same paper, students will explore issues of personal responsibility.

Will the syllabus vary across multiple section of the course?*

Yes

No

If yes, list the assignments that will be constant across sections

5. Supporting Documentation

Type of Attachments*

Course Syllabus

Degree Plan

Memo

Other Document(s)

**"Other"
documents:**

6. Additional Information Regarding This Proposal

**Contact person
for questions
about proposal:*** Brown, Gregory - gbrown@uh.edu

Comments:

Administrative Use Only

**(Administrative
Use Only)
Proposal ID#**

**Original Course
Prefix** PHIL

**Original Course
Code** 1334

**Original Course
Title** Introduction to the Mind

**Original Course
OID** 26230

• **Introduction to the
Mind**

- **PHIL 1334**
- **Course #10011**
- **Fall 2012**

• Professor Josh Weisberg Email: jweisberg@uh.edu Class hours: T-TH 1-2:30

• Office Hours: T, 2:30-3:30, or by appointment

• Class TA: :RVII. Ami Palmer Email: apalmer2@uh.edu

• Office: AH 515

• Office Phone: 743-3200

• Room: AH 110

• Office: AH 508 Office Hours: TBA

• **Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will learn to read and understand complex philosophical texts concerning issues about the mind.
- Students will gain experience at writing good, critical, analytical prose .
- Students will learn to read and understand current scientific work on the mind bearing on philosophical issues.
- Students will apply relevant philosophical ideas to questions of value and responsibility.

• **Course Description:**

• In the last few decades, there has been an explosion of research focused on the human mind. Seemingly every day, a new discovery from neuroscience, biology, psychology, or even quantum mechanics alters our understanding of what it means to be a thinking being. This course considers these developments from a philosophical point of view, with the goal of constructing a framework for grasping the implications of this fast-moving and exciting field. The following questions, among others, will be addressed: What is a mind? Am I the only one who can really know my mind? Are we the only beings possessing minds? How did the mind evolve?

• Can machines have minds? Are there things about the mind that are beyond full scientific understanding? Can robots and computers shed any light on what it means to have a mind? What does neuroscience tell us about the mind? And so on. We will only begin to scratch the surface of these questions, but this introduction will provide an entry to further in-depth study.

• **Course Readings:**

- All readings will be posted on the course Blackboard Vista website. All students registered for the course can access the website by following the links on the UH

website (.wY.IY-'! Q.hl). Go to "current students," then click on the link to Blackboard Vista and follow the instructions. All readings are in pdf format.

Course Requirements and Grading:

- 3 3-4 page papers, on a topic assigned by the professor. Students will have 1 week to complete the papers. Each paper is worth 20% of the grade. 1 in-class cumulative essay question final, worth 40% of the grade.

- All written material (except the exam) must be turned in to \l'.N..f.!!m.iti!!:.90rD. . All grading will be done online-no hard copies will be accepted. You must go to the turnitin.com website and create a "new user" profile (follow the instructions on the site). You will need the class ID# and password to create your profile. If you already exist on Turnitin.com, you can use your old profile, and just join our class using the Class ID and password. Then upload and submit your papers.

Class ID#: 5437203

•Password: brain

- This is a writing intensive course, so style and grammar, as well as content, counts towards the grade. Students requiring extra help with their writing are encouraged to go to the Writing Center, 210-217 Agnes Arnold Hall,
• <http://www.uh.edu/writecen/index.php>. Late papers are only accepted with an official excuse (doctor's note, jury duty, etc.). No incompletes will be allowed.

Policy on plagiarism/cheating:

- All students in philosophy courses are expected to comply with the rules concerning academic honesty listed in the UH Student Handbook. All work submitted for this course must be your own. Every student is required to sign and return an Academic Honesty statement indicating that you have read, understood, and agree to uphold the requirements of the university's Academic Honesty Policy.

- Plagiarism

- Plagiarism consists of representing the work or ideas of another as one's own work. It is a form of cheating and a fundamental violation of standards of academic integrity.

- Many instructors discourage the use of internet sources in written papers on the ground that they are not generally reliable or authoritative. In general, though, if you do quote or paraphrase any material from a book, article, or internet source, for any purpose, you must clearly specify the source and the pages on which you found the material.

- All acts of plagiarism are taken seriously and all cases will be vigorously pursued in accordance with university guidelines. The penalties are severe and can have a serious impact on the future careers of those found in violation of this prohibition.

- Cheating on exams

- Copying from another's paper, letting another copy from your paper, using "crib notes" or other materials not explicitly authorized, and arranging for someone else to take your place in an exam are all strictly prohibited. Cases involving violation of this prohibition will be vigorously pursued in accordance with the university guidelines. The penalties are severe and can have a serious negative impact on the future careers of those found in violation of this prohibition.

Course Schedule:

-
- Unit 1: Introduction

- Unit 2: Dualism, Rationalism, Empiricism: Read: Descartes Meditations, Armstrong on Descartes, & Locke Selection
 - *Paper 1 assigned-date TBA!*

- Unit 3: Behaviorism, Read: Ryle Selections & Armstrong on Ryle Unit

- 4: The Computer Theory, Read: Turing & Searle
 - Paper 2 assigned-date TBA!*

- Unit 5: Consciousness, Read: Nagel & Weisberg
 - *Paper 3 assigned-date TBA!*

- Unit 6: Conclusion: It's all in the brain, Read: Churchland, Blakemore et al., & Stetson et al.

- ** Schedule subject to change--please keep up to date and in touch: you are responsible for knowing what's assigned, and reading it!**

- Final: Tuesday, December 18th 2-5, in the regular classroom. Bring blue books!

- **Introduction to the Mind**

- **PHIL 1334**

- **Course #10011**

- **Fall 2012**

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- Office: AH 515

- Office Phone: 743-3200

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- Students will apply relevant philosophical ideas to questions of value and responsibility.
- For this Writing in the Disciplines course, the writing assignments will teach students to use the shared writing conventions, practices and methods of citation of philosophy.

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