

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Course Co-ordinator/Lecturer/Tutor: Dr Gerry Hough.

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/philosophy/profiles/g.hough>

Office Hour: TBC

Lecturer/Tutor: Dr Stephan Torre.

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/philosophy/profiles/stephan.torre>

Office Hour: TBC

Discipline Administration:

Mr Warwick Brown

50-52 College Bounds

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Students are asked to make themselves familiar with the information on key institutional policies which have been made available within MyAberdeen (<https://abdn.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/institution/Policies>). These policies are relevant to all students and will be useful to you throughout your studies. They contain important information and address issues such as what to do if you are absent, how to raise an appeal or a complaint and how seriously the University takes your feedback.

These institutional policies should be read in conjunction with this course guide, in which School specific policies are detailed. Further information can be found on the [University's Infohub webpage](#) or by visiting the Infohub.

TIMETABLE

Students can view their university timetable at

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will explore a series of arguments drawn from the Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics, which suggest that it is hard to fit the mind into the physical world. In particular, we will focus on three topics: the Mind-Body Problem, Free Will and Determinism, and Personal Identity. Each topic starts with an argument, which suggests that minds, free agents, and persons are not identical or reducible to physical entities like brains, the central nervous system or other biological entities. Taken together, these arguments offer a serious challenge to the view that we can explain human cognition in terms of the physical characteristics of human brains and bodies. In this course, you will have an opportunity to study the arguments in detail and consider for yourselves how deep a challenge this is to the scientific study of cognition and reason.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Aims:

- To introduce students to some central arguments from metaphysics and the philosophy of mind about the nature of human beings.
- To teach students how to extract and evaluate philosophical arguments from contemporary academic papers.
- To introduce students to philosophical methodology, including the use of thought experiments, argumentation and counter-example.
- To introduce and support the use of methods of research which will help students in their understanding of the course material, in their engagement with further reading on the subject, and in developing a constructive critical response to the material discussed in the course.

Outcomes:

By the end of the course, student should have

- developed a detailed understanding of the arguments covered in the course and their importance;
- practiced a set of useful scholarly methods in their engagement with the compulsory material and further reading in the scholarly literature, and in the preparation for and production of assessed work for the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Lecture Topic	Reading	Assessment
1	Introduction and Course Promises	'Reading Philosophy: a guide'.	
2	Phenomenal Consciousness and the Mind-Body Problem.	Ian Ravenscroft (2005) <i>Philosophy of Mind: a beginner's guide</i> , chapter 12.	
3	The Knowledge Argument.	Frank Jackson (1982) 'Epiphenomenal Qualia', sections I and IV.	

4	Responses to the Knowledge Argument.	David Lewis (1988) 'What Experience Teaches'. Brie Gertler (1999) 'A Defence of the Knowledge Argument'. Janet Levin (1986) 'Could love be like a heatwave?' (Selections.)	
5	Personal Identity and the Reduplication Problem.	Brian Garrett (2006) <i>What Is This Thing Called Metaphysics?</i> ch.8. David DeGrazia (2015) <i>Human Identity and Bioethics</i> , ch.1, 'Introduction'.	
6	Responding to the Reduplication Problem: Psychological continuity accounts.	Derek Parfit (1984) <i>Reasons and Persons</i> , selection.	
7	Responding to the Reduplication Problem: alternative accounts.	Marya Schetchman (2003) 'Empathic Access: the missing ingredient in personal identity'.	
8	The Problem of Free Will and Determinism	Roderick Chisholm (1964) "Human Freedom and the Self" Sections 1 - 4	
9	Classical Compatibilism	A J Ayer (1954) "Freedom and Necessity"	
10	Agent Causation	Roderick Chisholm (1964) "Human Freedom and the Self" Sections 5 - 13	

11	Review	TBA	
Revision Week	n/a	n/a	

CORE READING

All core reading will be available in electronic form via MyAberdeen.

Weeks 1-4:

Frank Jackson (1982) 'Epiphenomenal Qualia'.

David Lewis (1988) 'What Experience Teaches'.

Brie Gertler (1999) 'A Defence of the Knowledge Argument'.

Janet Levin (1986) 'Could Love be like a Heatwave?: Physicalism and the Subjective Character of Experience'.

Weeks 5-7:

Derek Parfit (1984) *Reasons and Persons*, selection.

Marya Schetchman (2003) 'Empathic Access: the missing ingredient in personal identity'.

Weeks 8-10:

Roderick Chisholm (1964) 'Human Freedom and the Self'

A.J. Ayer (1954) 'Freedom and Necessity'.

FURTHER READING

There will be a bibliography for each of the three topics available via MyAberdeen. To start with, you could have a look at

Consciousness: Ian Ravenscroft (2005) *Philosophy of Mind: a beginner's guide*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, ch.12.

Personal Identity: David DeGrazia (2015) *Human Identity and Bioethics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ch.1.

Free Will: Robert Kane (2005) *A Contemporary Introduction to Free Will*, ch.1.

ASSESSMENT

Three 1000-1250 word writing exercises. Writing Exercise 1 grade constitutes 30% of final grade. Writing Exercises 2 and 3 grades each constitute 35% of your final grade.

Assessment questions will be made available via MyAberdeen during the course, and we be available no later than two weeks in advance of the submission deadline.

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to **MyAberdeen- Organisations- Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates**. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will **normally be provided within three working weeks** (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Writing Exercise Questions will be distributed via MyAberdeen.

Deadlines TBA

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Submit a .doc or .docx file and include the word count.

Submit by the due date through [MyAberdeen](#). No hard copy will be required unless directly requested by the course coordinator.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student id number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 PHxxxx Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 PHxxxx Essay 1. To help us comply with our anonymous marking policy, please remove any immediately identifying information (e.g. your name) from your work.

Please note: failure to submit by the due date (unless a prior arrangement has been made) will result in a deduction of marks. Where no submission is received, this will result in a mark of zero.

Please note: *Safeassign* text matching software will be used, however the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy reserves the right to also submit material to *TurnitinUK* when deemed necessary.