PHIL 7 – INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND
THE MYTH OF DUALISM

UCLA, Summer Session C, 2020

Syllabus
Last Updated: August 2, 2020.

NOTE: Due to the continuing health and economic crisis caused by Covid-19, this course is now fully online. Policies and procedures have therefore changed significantly. Please disregard all syllabi whose "Last Updated" line predates August 2, 2020.

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Description

There are minds, and there are bodies. People are unions of the two. Or so says the myth of dualism. We'll pursue this myth through one important fragment of its history. Not all myths are fictions, but some are. We'll see if we're chasing a ghost.

We'll begin by surveying three approaches to the relationship between soul and body from the history of philosophy: Platonism, Aristotelianism, and Cartesianism. We'll then consider three 20th-century theories that seek to reject the historical paradigm: behaviorism, identity theory, and functionalism. We'll conclude by reflecting on an assortment of challenges to the underlying notion of an identifiable, unified, or non-illusory self.

Instructor and Contact Information

Instructor: Milo Crimi, <mcrimi@humnet.ucla.edu>. TA: Esther Nikbin, <enikbin@humnet.ucla.edu>.

When emailing, please put "PHIL 7" in the subject line. That'll help me stay organized and answer emails more quickly. I'll try to reply within one business day. If three pass, I'll be grateful for a reminder.

Please just call me 'Milo'. It sounds like Meelow.

Course Website

https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/201C-PHILOS7-2

CLASS MEETINGS

Lectures

Pre-recorded videos by Instructor. Each week's videos will be posted on the course website by M, 12:00am.

You'll be expected to have done the required reading prior to viewing the relevant lecture video. The reading assignment for each video will be clearly indicated on the weekly check sheet.
**Live Q&A Sessions**

Live Zoom sessions with Instructor.

W, 11:30am–12:15pm, Zoom. Video chat only. *Cameras and microphones required.*
F, 11:30am–12:15pm, Zoom. Text chat only. *Cameras and microphones not permitted.*

Attendance is required in at least one of the two Q&A sessions per week. (See attendance policy below.)

Every student will be required to come prepared with one brief question about the current material. I'll randomly select students to share their questions with the class. We'll then use a variety of methods to answer questions and generate discussion. I'll also set aside time at the start of each Q&A session for any questions about course administration, assignments, etc.

If you're in a time zone that makes attendance of the Q&A sessions especially difficult, please contact me immediately so we can make alternative arrangements.

**Instructor Office Hours and Appointments**

M, 11:30am–1:30pm, Zoom. Video or text chat. *Cameras and microphones permitted but not required.*

You don't need to contact me in advance to attend office hours. I'll be there. I encourage you to stop by for however long you wish. You may come prepared with specific questions about the course material, or with just a general interest in talking about the class or its content. I'm happy to discuss anything on your mind.

I'm also available by appointment. Please email me to set one up. Appointments will be conducted over Zoom, with either video or text chat, whichever you prefer.

**Discussion Sections**

Live Zoom sessions with TA.

2A: M, 1:30pm–2:20pm, Zoom.
2B: W, 10:30am–11:20am, Zoom.

The structure of the discussion sections is at your TA's discretion.

**TA Office Hours and Appointments**

At your TA's discretion.

**POLICIES**

**Reading and Preparation**

There'll be reading due before each lecture video, usually about 25 pages. It's essential for success in the class that you complete the assigned reading before viewing the lecture videos. Although the reading isn't particularly long, it's often dense and very difficult. You must read actively, pausing to think through what you just read, underlining/highlighting important bits of text, and taking notes. Whenever possible, you should read more than once. I'm happy to discuss techniques for reading more effectively in office hours and appointments.
**Attendance and Participation**

Viewing of lecture videos is mandatory.

Attendance of at least one Q&A session per week, of your choosing, is mandatory. Attendance will be recorded at the start of each Q&A session. If you have to miss both Q&A sessions for a given week due to illness or emergency, please contact me as soon as possible. Q&A sessions won't be recorded.

Attendance of instructor office hours is optional but highly recommended.

Attendance and participation policies for discussion sections are at your TA's discretion. But I highly recommend attending discussions and actively participating.

**Grading**

All assignments will be graded by your TA, except for Q&A session attendance and weekly reflections/responses, which will be graded by me.

See below for descriptions of the various assignments.

**Late Work**

Late weekly reflections/responses will receive no credit. There'll be a grade reduction of 1/3 of a letter grade per day late for all other assignments. (For example, after one day late an assignment that normally would earn a B+ will receive a B. After two days late, it'll receive a B-, and so on.) If you have to submit work late due to illness or emergency, please contact me or your TA as soon as possible.

Extensions or incompletes will be granted only if there are serious extenuating circumstances. Extensions will be granted at your TA's discretion (in consultation with me), and incompletes will be granted at my discretion (in consultation with your TA). Please let us know of any such extenuating circumstances as soon as possible.

Because of the current circumstances, we're inclined toward leniency on late and incomplete work. You'll never be required to share any details about the circumstances that are preventing you from submitting work on time (though you may, if you'd like). But we do need to hear from you in order to apply any exceptions to the policies described above.

**Technology**

During Q&A sessions, please use technology (e.g., computers, telephones, etc.) for class-related activities only. If you have to take or make a phone call, text, or email, please leave the Zoom session and return when you're done. If your use of technology becomes disruptive, I may ask you to stop or leave.

Please don't take any photos or screenshots or make any video or audio recordings without my explicit permission. To request permission, please talk to me outside of class.

Technology policies for discussion sections are at your TA's discretion.
**Peer Collaboration**

I encourage you to discuss the course material with your fellow students outside of class. Study groups can be a fun and effective way to reinforce material – that is, so long as they stay focused on the task of studying.

While you may discuss the content of your written work with your fellow students, collaborative writing of assignments isn't allowed. All submitted written work must be entirely your own.

**Online Resources**

While internet sources like wikipedia or youtube can be very helpful for day-to-day inquiries, they aren't reputable scholarly sources and must be avoided when researching course content. The same goes for most other internet sources, such as random message boards, blogs, and chatrooms.

As alternatives, I invite you to consult the following reputable sources (while following correct academic honesty practices of course):

- The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: [https://www.iep.utm.edu/](https://www.iep.utm.edu/).
- Philpapers: [https://philpapers.org/](https://philpapers.org/).
- Philosopher's Index: [https://philindex.org/](https://philindex.org/).

To access the content on Philpapers or Philosopher's Index, you may need to be connected to the campus wifi or use the proxy server or VPN. If you have any questions about how to do this, please let me know.

**Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty won't be tolerated. Please consult the UCLA Student Conduct Code for information on what constitutes academic dishonesty. The document is available at the following address: [https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Individual-Student-Code](https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Individual-Student-Code).

Often students who violate the student conduct code and engage in academic dishonesty do so unknowingly or because they're under pressure from a rapidly approaching deadline. It's important that you understand good research and citation practices. If you have any doubt, please contact me or your TA first. It's always better to submit an assignment late and accept the late penalty than to risk an academic dishonesty investigation conducted by the Dean's office.

All written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin and reviewed by their plagiarism detection software. If Turnitin reports a high similarity index, or if there are other reasons for suspicion, your TA will conduct a preliminary investigation. If your TA sees reason to, they'll alert me of their findings. I'll then determine whether to forward the suspicion to the Dean's office, who will then conduct their own investigation. From that point forward, the Dean's office assumes all responsibility for determining culpability and administering disciplinary action.

**Accommodations**

Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310)825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. More information is available at the following address: [https://www.cae.ucla.edu](https://www.cae.ucla.edu). (I've worked with the CAE before. I'm sincerely committed to meeting requested accommodations.)
ASSIGNMENTS

Specific instructions for the assignments will be distributed and posted on the course website.

Q&A Attendance

• Value: 5%
• Due: W or F, 11:30am, at start of Q&A session.
• Description: Attendance is required in at least one Q&A session a week, either W or F, whichever you prefer. You don't have to attend only W sessions or only F sessions throughout the term. You may mix W or F attendance as you please. Each Q&A session attended is worth 1% of the final grade, up to the maximum of 5%. That means one week's attendance can be missed without penalty.

Weekly Reflection

• Value: 10%.
• Due: F, 11:59pm. Submitted to CCLE message board.
• Description: Describe one thing from the current week's material that interested you. 250 words max. Graded Pass or No Pass. Each weekly reflection is worth 2% of the final grade, up to the maximum of 10%. That means one weekly reflection can be missed without penalty.

Weekly Reflection Reply

• Value: 5%.
• Due: M, 11:59pm. Submitted to CCLE message board.
• Description: Reply to another student's weekly reflection from the previous week. 150 words max. Graded Pass or No Pass. Each weekly reflection reply is worth 1% of the final grade, up to the maximum of 5%.

Diagnostic Writing Assignment

• Value: 5%.
• Due: F, Aug. 7, 11:59pm. Uploaded to Turnitin.
• Description: Prompted short paper. 750 words max. Letter grade. Outside sources not permitted.

Paper 1

• Value: 30%.
• Due: F, Aug. 21. Uploaded to Turnitin by 11:59pm.
• Description: Prompted short paper. Choose one of two prompts. 1500 words max. Letter grade. Outside sources not permitted.

Paper 2

• Value: 45%.
• Due: F, Sept. 11. Uploaded to Turnitin by 11:59pm.
• Description: Unprompted short research paper. Topic must be approved by your TA in advance. 2000 words min. 3500 words max. Letter grade. Outside sources not permitted.
Two different grading scales will be used. Scale 1 is for translating letter grades on assignments into numerical scores. Scale 2 is for translating final grade percentages back into course letter grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale 1 (For Assignments)</th>
<th>Scale 2 (For Final Course Grades)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+ → 100</td>
<td>96.7–100 → A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A → 96</td>
<td>93.3–96.6 → A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A- → 93</td>
<td>90–93.2 → A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+ → 89</td>
<td>86.7–89.9 → B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>B → 86</td>
<td>83.3–86.6 → B</td>
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<tr>
<td>B- → 83</td>
<td>80–83.2 → B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+ → 79</td>
<td>70–79.9 → C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>C → 76</td>
<td>60–69.9 → C</td>
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<tr>
<td>C- → 73</td>
<td>0–59.9 → C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+ → 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D → 66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D- → 63</td>
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<td>F → 59</td>
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<td>No Submission → 0</td>
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What this means: Every student who remains enrolled in the course through the end of the term will receive a final course grade of at least a C-. No final course grade below this will be assigned under any circumstances (barring cases of academic dishonesty). All grades typically within the D range are shifted up to C, and all those typically in the C range are shifted up to C+. The scale from B- up is the usual one.

**COURSE MATERIALS**


Copies of the above – whether physical or digital – can be found very inexpensively online. There are multiple copies of each in the UCLA library system. Please let me or your TA know if there's any reason you can't get ahold of these. All other readings will be made freely available on the course website.

**SCHEDULE**

**Weekly Check Sheets**

Weekly check sheets describing the upcoming week's required readings, assignments, class meetings, and so on will be posted by 11:59pm on the preceding Friday.

**Course Outline**

The course outline is contained in a separate document called "Course Outline" on the course website. Consult that document for updates to the schedule.
DISCLAIMER

This syllabus, like all sublunary things, is subject to change. This is all the more true given the swiftly evolving – or, rather, devolving – circumstances. I'll communicate any changes in as timely a manner as possible.

ENTREATY

We're living through some extremely unique and difficult times. If you're facing especially challenging circumstances that you think may negatively affect your performance in the course, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or your TA. We're here to help as best as we can.

Here are some further UCLA-based resources that may be helpful:

UCLA Bruins Safe Online: <https://www.bso.ucla.edu/>.
UCLA Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <https://www.counseling.ucla.edu/>.

Please stay safe and take care.