This course is an introduction to philosophy of mind and philosophy of language. Its aim is to introduce some of the central problems and concepts in these areas, and to develop students’ skills in critical thinking, understanding and analysing written texts, and clear writing. The course is suitable for students with little or no prior knowledge in philosophy.

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Lecturer:
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Course Secretary:
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Lecture Times and Location

Due to Covid-related social distancing restrictions, the lectures for this course will be provided to you as online recordings, available through Learn. Starting Monday September 20, the lectures will be released to you on Monday morning. More details will be given on the LEARN page for the course.

Online Synchronous Hour

An additional synchronous session, with the instructor for that week, has been scheduled for each Friday (from 3-4pm) on Teams. This is an opportunity to pose questions, raise doubts, and philosophize in real-time with your peers and instructor. These sessions are not a substitute for tutorials; they’re meant to supplement pre-recorded lectures. Unresolved issues from tutorials can be raised in this setting and pursued in collaboration with the lecturer of the course.

Lecture Topics and Readings

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Core Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Frege on sense and reference</td>
<td>Gottlob Frege, “On Sense and Reference” (1892)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Core Reading</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Russell on descriptions and names (Almotahari)</td>
<td>Bertrand Russell, “On Denoting” (1905)</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Kripke on descriptivism (Almotahari)</td>
<td>Saul Kripke, Lectures 1 and 2 of <em>Naming and Necessity</em> (abridged) (1972)</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Linguistic convention (Almotahari)</td>
<td>David Lewis, ‘Languages and Language’ (1975)</td>
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<td>Fiona Cowie, “The Logical Problem of Language Acquisition” (1997)</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Minds as computers (Ward)</td>
<td>Alan Turing: “Computing Machinery and Intelligence” (1950)</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Functionalism about the mind (Ward)</td>
<td>Ned Block: “Troubles with Functionalism” (1980)</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Puzzles about Representation (Ward)</td>
<td>Kathleen Akins: “Of Sensory Systems and the Aboutness of Mental States” (1996)</td>
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<td>Peter Godfrey-Smith: “Mind, Matter and Metabolism” (2016)</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Review Week</td>
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Recorded videos, slides, and other materials will be available on LEARN.
Further advice on Readings
Encyclopaedias are a good source of extra reading. Avoid Wikipedia (it is often inaccurate on philosophy), but there are good internet encyclopaedias that can be useful:

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP)
The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (IEP)

Websites
We also recommend the following as starting points for your research:

PhilPapers
Philosophy Compass
The Diversity Reading List

You will need to know how to track down sources, including electronic journals, using the library search engine DiscoverED.

Tutorials
You will have weekly tutorials. These give you a chance to further discuss topics and issues in the course and its lectures. Tutorials will take place, at times and places and in a format to be arranged, during weeks 2 through 11 of the semester.

Attendance at tutorials is compulsory for all students on this course. The class tutor will maintain a register of attendance. Unexplained absences will be brought to the attention of your Personal Tutor.

You will be allocated a suitable tutorial group by the Timetabling Department based on your timetable. Should you wish to change the group you have been allocated to, you will need to fill in the Tutorial Group Change form on the Timetabling Department’s webpage.

Please inform your tutor and the Teaching Office of any absences. Students who miss tutorials may be required to do additional written work.

Tutorial preparation
We will post discussion questions for the tutorials on LEARN. You should try to answer these on your own before you go to your tutorial.

Assessment
This course has three assessments:

- A midterm essay of 1500 words, worth 25% of your final mark, due Wednesday, 3 November, 12 pm (midday), via Turnitin on Learn.
• **A final assignment** worth 70% of your final mark, due Wednesday, 15 December, 12 pm (midday), via Turnitin on Learn.

• **A number of online short assignments** worth 5% (more information can be found on the Learn page of the course).

Detailed information concerning assignments, essay titles, readings, and submission procedures will be available on Learn.

**Word Counts**: The word count of your essay and assignments, including footnotes but excluding bibliography, must not exceed the specified word limit. The precise word count must be written on the coversheet. Overlong essays will be penalised according to the following rule: 1% of the maximum obtainable mark will be deducted for every 100 words, or part thereof, over the word limit. So, exceeding the word limit by 1-100 words incurs a deduction of 1%; exceeding by 101-200 words incurs a deduction of 2%; and so on.

**Resits**: The resit takes place in April/May and is 100% take-home test. Students will receive an individual notification from the Teaching Office regarding the release date and the deadline of the resit assessment.

**Visiting undergraduates**

The assessment arrangements for visiting undergraduates are the same as for other students.

**Mark Schemes**

For Philosophy-specific marking guidelines go here:
   [Grade-related marking guidelines for Philosophy](#)
For the University’s general marking scheme go here:
   [Common Marking Scheme](#)

**Learning Resources**

**LEARN**

You should regularly check your university email and check for announcements on the course Learn page.

The course Learn page will provide information concerning:
• General information and announcement about the course
• Lecture notes and slides
• Tutorial arrangements
• Information about assessment arrangements
Exemplar essays
Anonymised exemplar essays will be on the Learn pages. These are essays written by past students that they have kindly agreed for us to use. We encourage you to read these essays in conjunction with the Philosophy-specific marking guidelines. In doing so think about the strengths and weaknesses of the essay, why the essays fell into their grade-band, and how they could have been improved.

There are many ways for an essay to fall into a particular grade-band. The Philosophy-specific marking guidelines provide explanation of the many, diverse, ways in which an essay can be a 1st, 2.i, 2.ii, and so on. The exemplar essays only show one way to achieve a certain grade; it is not the only way.

Autonomous Learning Groups
Each course has dedicated Autonomous Learning Groups. It is up to you, the members of the ALG, to organise the meetings. You decide how often to meet and what to do in your ALG. ALGs are designed to help you learn and get to know your classmates; they are not a formal requirement of the course. It is important to note that assessment in your courses is non-competitive: you aren’t competing against your classmates, only against the general grade criteria. It is in your interests to help each other.

You could use ALG meetings to:

- Read and discuss the papers together
- Discuss essay-writing and time-management techniques
- Constructively critique draft essays or plans
- Work on presentations or discussion posts that the class may involve
- Share tips on career advice

Please email the Course Organiser if you feel that it would be useful for the group if they joined one of your sessions. Please contact the course secretary if you find it necessary during the semester to transfer into a different group.

Getting in Touch
If you have a question regarding lecture content you should ask it in your tutorial group and/or visit the relevant lecturer to discuss it during their office hour.

For other specifically academic matters you can contact the Course Organiser.

If you have questions not specifically about lecture content, you should contact the Course Secretary.