

## PHIL 306 Philosophy of Mind

Instructor: Andrew Reisner

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Course Location and Time: ENGMD 280, Tuesday and Thursday 14:35-15:25 and a conference

### Course Description:

This course provides a general introduction to the philosophy of mind. Arguably, there are two fundamental questions in philosophy of mind. One question is what is it that distinguishes a state or a process as being mental as opposed to something else? The other question is how do we understand the distinctive place of mind in an otherwise non-mental world? We will be looking at these two questions as they bear on, and are born upon by, a range of topics including the mind/body problem, the nature of intentionality, consciousness, mental content, and mental causation. The course will be taught through twice weekly lectures in which student participation will be encouraged, and once weekly conferences in which student participation will be required.

**Requirements:** Students who take this course **must be prepared to complete readings on time**, as lectures will assume that students have read that week's texts closely. **Students are expected to have their texts with them at each class, and students may be called upon at random to discuss or explain parts of the week's readings.**

**Prerequisites:** There are no formal prerequisites for this course, but it is a challenging subject.

**Format:** There will be two lectures per week, although emphasis will be placed on student participation where possible. Starting in Week 3, there will be a required weekly conference.

**Assessment:** The final mark for this course will be determined in the following way:

1. Two essays: 27.5% each
2. A Final Examination: 45%

**Attendance and Absence from Conferences:** Conference attendance is not mandatory, but it is assumed in the teaching of this course that you will attend all lectures and conferences. Attendance is the student's responsibility, and missed materials should be obtained from other students in the course. **Note that the final examination will be cumulative, and missing any significant portion of the course may make passing the final difficult.**