



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 683.3 L01 – Topics in the Philosophy of Mind: “Consciousness and the Self”

(Lectures: MWF 14:00 – 14:50, A167)

Winter Term 2013

Course Outline

Instructor: Greg Janzen
Office: SS1206
Office Hour: M 15:00-16:00

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Course Description

This course explores the relationship between consciousness and self-consciousness. According to a venerable philosophical tradition dating back to at least Aristotle, there is an intimate connection between the two—indeed, that without self-consciousness there is no consciousness whatever. We will investigate this thesis. Along the way, we will examine different theories of consciousness that take consciousness necessarily to involve self-consciousness—e.g., the higher-order theory and the reflexive theory. We will also examine several further issues related to this thesis—e.g., whether there is such a thing as the ‘self’ and whether the self-consciousness involved in conscious states has *de se* content.

Required Texts

I will supply a list of articles, each of which is available in an e-journal or e-book to which the University of Calgary library subscribes.

Evaluation

The final grade will be determined by three 10-page essays, each weighted equally. Accordingly, writing and the grading thereof will be a factor in evaluation. Writing should be clear, coherent, and succinct. Your overall grade for the course will be determined entirely by your performance on these essays. There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam and you do not have to receive a passing grade on any particular essay to pass the course.

Tentative essay due dates:

Essay 1: Monday, February 11

Essay 2: Monday, March 11

Essay 3: Monday, April 13

Policy on late assignments: Late essays will not be accepted unless a university recognized ground for delay (e.g., illness, bereavement) is provided. Note: a busy schedule, vacation, and employment are not university recognized grounds for delay.

Submitting assignments: Essays are to be submitted in class or in the Phil 683 Lec 01 assignment drop slot, which can be found in the Philosophy Department (SS 12th floor). For an essay to be considered on time, I have to receive a *hard copy* of it by 4pm on the day it is due. *Essays will not be accepted via email (or otherwise electronically), or under my office door, under any circumstances.*

Grading method: Each essay will be given a letter grade. Your overall grade for the course will be an average of the letter grades on your essays.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as **an extremely serious academic offence**, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

SAFEWALK

Call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and LRT station. Or use a Campus Help phone.