PHIL 306: Philosophy of Mind

Syllabus for Winter Semester, 2019

Course description
Over the last fifty years or so, (mostly) philosophical debate has led to a picture of the mind that now constitutes the conceptual framework for the sciences of mental life. Our aim in this course is to trace the history of the development of this framework, to understand its commitments, and to review its limitations.

Objectives
On successful completion of this unit, students will (a) understand the contemporary scientific framework for the theory of the mind; (b) have a grasp of the primary philosophical objections that have been made to this framework; (c) have a better understanding of the methods of analytic philosophy; and (d) have developed skills in philosophical reading and writing.

Times and venues
Lecture: MWF 12:35 pm - 1:25 pm, Stewart Bio S3-3
Conferences: TBA

Contact details
Lecturer: Ian Gold
ian.gold@mcgill.ca
Leacock 908
x-8939
Office hours: by appointment

Assessment
The work for the course includes (a) an electronic journal (30% of the final grade); (b) a short paper (35% of the final grade); and (c) a final exam (35% of the final grade).

Readings (all available on myCourses)
Descartes R. 1641. Meditations (second and sixth; various editions).


Handicaps

If you have a visible or invisible handicap (e.g. mental disorder), I encourage you to let me know about it so that I can accommodate and assist you.

The fine print

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/students/ for more information).

L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/students/).

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.