



Psychology 3177F

570

Fall/Winter 2018-2019

Consciousness

Instructor Information:

Professor: Imants Baruss **Office #** DL323

Email: baruss@uwo.ca **Ext:** 4369

Office Hours: Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Class Times and Location(s):

Tuesdays 2:30pm - 5:30pm in Room W173

Course Description:

Survey of contemporary issues in consciousness studies considered from a phenomenological perspective.

Antirequisites: N/A

Prerequisites: Psychology 2840F/G, (or Psychology 2800E, Psychology 2820E, Psychology 2830A/B, Psychology 2855F/G, or Psychology 2856F/G) and registration in the third or fourth year Honors Specialization, Honors Double Major, Major or Specialization in Psychology.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

TEXTBOOK

Barušs, I. & Mossbridge, J. (2017). *Transcendent mind: Rethinking the science of consciousness*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. (Required)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with some of the main issues in consciousness studies from a phenomenological perspective, to develop a sensitive but critical attitude to the subject matter, and to develop critical thinking and writing skills.

COURSE CONTENTS

Topics covered can include: domains of discourse in the study of consciousness, history of materialism, variations on materialism, post-materialism, definitions of consciousness, neuroscientific theories of consciousness, computationalism, consciousness as an emergent property, intentionality, qualia, the Turing test, promissory materialism, the Chinese room argument, scientism vs authentic science, the binding problem, panpsychism, beliefs about consciousness and reality, personality and intelligence correlates of beliefs about consciousness and reality, shared mind, experimental studies of shared mind, remote viewing, telephone telepathy, neurophysiological measures of telepathy, theories of shared mind, the notion of time in physics, the centrality of time to consciousness, conscious awareness of subjective time, nonconscious processing of events in time, precognitive dreaming, implicit precognition, precognitive remote viewing, potential mechanisms of nonconscious processing of events in time, life reviews during near-death experiences, altered temporality, the experience of timelessness, theories of time, after-death communication, mediumship, super-psi vs survival hypotheses, unwanted anomalous intrusions, mind in a compromised brain, explanations of near-death experiences, mind in a silent brain, mind without a brain, mind in the afterlife, random mechanical cascade, random event generators, two-slit experiments, remote healing, the Pauli effect, poltergeist activity, the Philip experiment, macro-pk, first-person observation in science, some problems with subjectivity in psychology, first-person methods in psychology, phenomenological investigation, integration of first- and third-person approaches to the study of consciousness, developing first-person observation skills, self-development for consciousness researchers, accurate intuitions about events in consensus reality, quantum theories of consciousness, filter models of consciousness, the brain as a by-product of consciousness, flicker-filter theory of consciousness, implications of consciousness research for clinical practice, implications of consciousness research for scientific discovery, the nature of consciousness. The study of consciousness is a multidisciplinary effort and material from psychology, philosophy, neuroscience, anthropology, mathematics, statistics, physics, and religious studies may be discussed in this course. Students will be expected to know that material to the extent that it is reasonable to know it given the prerequisites for the course and explicit instruction given in the textbook and in class. This course is taught from a phenomenological perspective in that phenomena are considered essentially as phenomena without automatic reduction to a materialist interpretation of reality.

COURSE WEB SITE

The web site for this course is <http://baruss.ca/3177.htm>. Information about the course will be posted from time to time on the web site.

EVALUATION

Homework, 40%: There will be 10 homework assignments each of which must be submitted at the beginning of the class for which it is due. The homework grade will consist of the average of the 8 best marks for homework.

Students who cannot submit a homework assignment by the due date for medical or other extraordinary reasons will be given an opportunity to submit it at a later date at the discretion of the instructor. Medical documentation for such accommodation will not be required. All other late submissions will be given a grade of zero. Allowance will not be made for tests and assignments in other courses, employment, or family responsibilities.

Term Test, 20%: There will be a term test on Wednesday, October 23, 2018 worth 20% of the final grade. The term test will be essay style in format and will cover material in the assigned readings and class lectures from the beginning of the course to the time of the test.

Examination, 40%: There will be a final examination during the final examination period December 10–21, 2018. The examination will be essay style in format and will cover all the material in the assigned readings and class lectures from the beginning of the course.

Students who cannot attend a test or examination for medical or other extraordinary reasons should obtain proper documentation and contact their Dean's office as soon as possible. Please see http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Allowance will not be made for tests and assignments in other courses, employment, or family responsibilities. All students who cannot write a regularly scheduled test or examination and who receive accommodation from their Dean are required to write an appropriate alternate test or examination. All alternate tests and examinations will be essay style in format.

In-class Essays: Students may be asked to write short in-class essays that will not be graded nor contribute to the final grade but will be used as a basis for discussion and a record of attendance.



2018-2019

Faculty Office Hours:

Faculty office hours can be found on King's homepage under the menu heading Current Students (<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/planning/faculty-office-hours/>) and are also posted on the bulletin board across from the Administrative Assistants Office on the second floor of Dante Lenardon Hall.

How to Request Academic Accommodation – King's Students:

(<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/exams-and-tests/medical-accommodation/>)

UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

(http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

<https://www.eng.uwo.ca/files/undergraduate/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

Tests/Examinations:

Students are responsible for seeking accommodation with appropriate documentation, prior to writing tests/examinations, if they are of the view that their performance may be affected by extenuating circumstances.

Support Services:

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <https://uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development (formerly Services for Students with Disabilities) at King's is available at <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

For emotional/mental health assistance see: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The website for Academic Services at King's University College is <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:

Use of Electronic Devices:

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

Use of Laptops in the Classroom:

King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of laptop computers can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of laptops by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct. See https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/studentLife/conduct/code_of_conduct_2003.pdf

Inappropriate use of laptops [or smart phones] during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.”

Statement on Academic Offences:

King's is committed to Academic Integrity.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. <http://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/terms/plagiarism.html>

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Copyright re: Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright . Faculty Members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a Faculty Member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student's answers or papers on the course web site he/she should ask for the student's written permission. (Commercial use of Course material - <http://umd.edu/legal/commercial.html>)

Mailbox re Submission of Late Essays/Assignments ONLY:

Only late essays/assignments not handed in at class may be dropped off in the drop box, located between the inner doors of the Cardinal Carter Library. Essays dropped into the mailbox will be picked-up twice per day: once in the morning (9:30 a.m.) and in the afternoon (4:00 p.m.). All essays dropped off after 4:00 p.m. will be date-stamped the following business day. Essays should be placed in an envelope addressed to the professor with the course code and student number clearly indicated.

Class Cancellations:

All reported class cancellations are posted at: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/outages-service-interruptions/>