

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2016-17**

Philosophy 4410: Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Mind

**Fall Term 2015
Tu 11:30-2:30
STVH 1145**

**Instructor: Chris Viger
Office STVH 4149
519-661-2111 X85755
cviger@uwo.ca**

DESCRIPTION

This survey course in the philosophy of mind is divided into two sections. The first section focuses on concepts and content. We will consider several theories about what concepts are, what it is to have a concept, and problems that each view faces; we will also look at theories of mental content that attempt to explain how our thoughts are about things in the world. Topics will include concepts as definitions, prototypes, symbols in a language of thought, and mere ascriptions made to predict intentional systems. Theories of content we will study include causal/informational theories, naturalistic teleological theories, and phenomenal intentionality theory. The second section of the course investigates ways in which cognitive science is being used to address traditional philosophical questions such as the nature of free will, consciousness, and responsibility. As we better understand the mechanisms that produce our behaviour what is left of our traditional notions of ourselves?

TEXTS

No text. Readings assigned in class.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop critical reading and writing skills

