

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2022-23**

**PHILOSOP 4410F-001 9xxx  
Problems in Philosophy of Mind: Concepts**

Fall Term 2022  
Tuesdays 8:30-11:30

Instructor: Chris Viger  
Office Hours: Tu, W 12-1pm  
Office: STVH 4133  
Email: cviger@uwo.ca

**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.’**

**DESCRIPTION**

Concepts are considered to be the essential elements or building blocks of thought. In this course, we will explore the philosophical issues surrounding the nature of concepts and the language of thought. We will study the work of philosophers such as Frege, Wittgenstein, and Quine, and we will explore the relationship between concepts and the world. We will also explore the relationship between concepts and the brain, and we will discuss the implications of this research for our understanding of the nature of thought.

**TEXTS**

No required text. Readings available online or through OWL.

Useful resource: Margolis, E. and Laurence, S. (Eds.) (1999). *Concepts: Core Readings*. Cambridge, MA: Bradford, MIT Press.

**OBJECTIVES**

2. Develop critical reading and writing skills necessary for graduate work in philosophy of mind.
3. Develop writing skills for succinctly summarizing difficult material.
4. Learn specific philosophical, psychological, and neuro-scientific theories about the nature of concepts and the role of concepts in thought, prototypes, stereotypes, exemplars, symbols in a language of concepts.
5. Develop essay writing skills to the standard expected of graduate work in philosophy.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION**

1. Abstracts (5 x 100 words)	10%
2. Presentation (15 minutes)	10%
3. Position Summaries (2 x 500 words)	20%
4. Essay Outline	10%
5. Final Essay (2500-3500 words)	50%

### **AUDIT**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

### **DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES**

The Department of Philosophy policies that govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by thefbed4 [nu]5 o(t)-2 (e) onl(t)-2 ()-1 n (e)-1 -

## **PLAGIARISM CHECKING**