



PHIL*6120 Philosophy of Mind

Fall 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - September 08, 2020

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

A study of contemporary theories of mind and philosophies of psychology.

1.2 Course Description

This course deals with the very old, very new topic of panpsychism: the idea that consciousness (or proto-consciousness) is fundamental and ubiquitous in nature. Although this view originates with early Greek thought, can be found in modern philosophers such as Spinoza and Leibniz, and flourished in the nineteenth century (e.g. Schopenhauer, Fechner, Royce, James, Schiller, Russell, Whitehead), our focus will be on the contemporary resurgence in interest in panpsychism over the past twenty years or so. This modern, and perhaps unexpected, attention to panpsychism is a response to the difficult problem of integrating phenomenal consciousness into the natural world in a satisfactory way. We will approach the current literature on panpsychism via William Seager's book *Theories of Consciousness: An Introduction and Assessment* (second edition, Routledge 2016), which lays the groundwork for panpsychism as a potentially attractive solution to the problem of consciousness. We will then explore some of the current literature laying out this idea.

This course will be delivered online. We will have one scheduled hour a week for the class to join together as a group in online discussion (the Registrar has scheduled a three-hour block of time into the timetable, but once the class convenes we will feel free either to use part of the scheduled time or to mutually agree on another time that works for us all). In addition, we will schedule small group 'tutorial' sessions, and various asynchronous online elements will be available, including a discussion board, notes, videos etc. Class participants will be asked to record their own video or audio presentation as part of the course assessment, as well as to participate in other ways.

1.3 Timetable

Provisional Seminar Schedule:

September 15 th :	Introductory discussion
September 22 nd :	Seager, Chaps 1–3
September 29 th :	Seager, Chaps 4–8
October 6 th :	Seager, Chaps 9–12
October 20 th :	Seager, Chaps 13–15
October 27 th :	Chalmers “Panpsychism and Panprotopsychism,” Goff, Jackson
November 3 rd :	Chalmers, “The Combination Problem,” Basile, Lewtas
November 10 th :	Strawson “Realistic Monism” <i>JCS</i> issue
November 17 th :	Goff & Coleman, Holman, Howell [Essay plan due]
November 24 th :	Coleman, Roelofs, Shani [Essay presentation due]
December 1 st :	Wrap-up discussion

December 7th: [Feedback due on peer essay presentations]

December 14th: [Final essay due]

1.4 Final Exam

This course has no final exam.

2 Instructional Support

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Required Texts (Textbook)

- William Seager, *Theories of Consciousness: An Introduction and Assessment* (second edition, Routledge 2016, ISBN: 9780415834094).

Required Texts (Article)

- David Chalmers, "Panpsychism and Panprotopsychism," in Godehard Brüntrup & Ludwig Jaskolla (eds.), 2016, *Panpsychism: Contemporary Perspectives*, Oxford University Press 2016. doi:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199359943.001.0001
- Philip Goff, "Why Panpsychism Doesn't Help Us Explain Consciousness," *Dialectica* 63(3): 289–311. doi:10.1111/j.1746-8361.2009.01196.x
- Frank Jackson, "On Ensuring that Physicalism is not a Dual Attribute Theory in Sheep's Clothing," *Philosophical Studies* 131:1 (2006): 227–49. doi:10.1007/s11098-006-5989-3
- David Chalmers, "The Combination Problem for Panpsychism," in Godehard Brüntrup & Ludwig Jaskolla (eds.), 2016, *Panpsychism: Contemporary Perspectives*, Oxford University Press 2016. doi:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199359943.001.0001
- Pierfrancesco Basile, "It Must be True—But How Can It Be? Some Remarks on

- Panpsychism and Mental Composition”, *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement* 67 (2010): 93–112. doi:10.1017/S1358246110000044
- Patrick Lewtas, “Building Minds: Solving the Combination Problem,” *Inquiry* 60:7 (2016), 742-781. doi:10.1080/0020174x.2016.1216464

 - Galen Strawson, “Realistic Monism: Why Physicalism Entails Panpsychism”, *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 13: 10–11 (2006): 3–31. Plus commentary and replies. <https://www-ingentaconnect-com.subzero.lib.uoguelph.ca/content/1355-8250>

 - Philip Goff & Sam Coleman, “Russellian Monism,” in Uriah Kriegel (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Consciousness*, Oxford University Press 2020. doi: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198749677.013.14
 - Emmett L. Holman, “Panpsychism, Physicalism, Neutral Monism and the Russellian Theory of Mind,” *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 15:5 (2008): 48–67. <https://www-ingentaconnect-com.subzero.lib.uoguelph.ca/contentone/imp/jcs/2008/00000015/00000005/art00002>
 - Robert Howell, “The Russellian Monist’s Problems with Mental Causation,” *Philosophical Quarterly* 65:258 (2014): 22–39. doi:10.1093/pq/pqu058

 - Sam Coleman, “The Real Combination Problem: Panpsychism, Micro-Subjects, and Emergence,” *Erkenntnis* 79: 1 (2014): 19–44. doi:10.1007/s10670-013-9431-x
 - Luke Roelofs, “The unity of consciousness, within subjects and between subjects”, *Philosophical Studies* 173:12 (2016): 3199–3221
 - Itay Shani, “Cosmopsychism: A Holistic Approach to the Metaphysics of Experience,” *Philosophical Papers* 44:3 (2015): 389–417. doi:10.1080/05568641.2015.1106709

3.2 Recommended Resources

Recommended Additional Resources (Readings)

- Godehard Brüntrup & Ludwig Jaskolla (eds.), *Panpsychism: Contemporary Perspectives*, Oxford University Press 2016.
 - William Seager (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Panpsychism*, Routledge, 2019.
 - Torin Alter & Yujin Nagasawa (eds.), *Consciousness in the Physical World: Perspectives on Russellian Monism*, Oxford University Press 2015.
 - David F. Skrbina, *Panpsychism in the West*, MIT Press 2005.
 - David F. Skrbina, (ed.), *Mind That Abides: Panpsychism in the New Millennium*, Benjamins 2009.
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- Thomas Nagel, "Panpsychism" (1979), in Nagel's *Mortal Questions*, Cambridge University Press, pp. 181–195.
 - Galen Strawson, "The Identity of the Categorical and the Dispositional," *Analysis* 51:4 (2008), 209–13. doi:10.1111/j.1467-8284.2008.00753.x
 - Giulio Tononi & Christof Koch, "Consciousness: Here, There and Everywhere?" *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 370:1668 (2015): 20140167. doi:10.1098/rstb.2014.0167

4 Learning Outcomes

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

The evaluation for this class will be based on:

- participation in discussions, including feedback on the essay projects of your

- colleagues (10%),
- an essay plan (10%),
- a short video or audio presentation on your essay topic (20%), and
- a final essay (60%).

You will need to make a written plan for your final essay project. This plan, including a short, proposed bibliography and a sketch of the reasoning, will be due on **November 17th** (but can be submitted earlier).

You will then need to make a short (~5 mins) recorded presentation on your final essay project, that will be shared with the class via CourseLink, in combination with your written plan. This will be due by **November 24th**.

You will be expected to provide helpful, constructive and collegial feedback on your colleagues' essay projects, which will be visible to the rest of the class, via CourseLink. This should be completed by Monday, **December 7th**.

Final essays will be due by 5:00 pm on Monday, **December 14th**.

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

7.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, staff, and students—to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

7.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

7.10 Illness

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.
