Spring 2019  
Syllabus for Philosophy 4313.26603: Philosophy of Mind  
M/W: TR 10:30-11:45, HSCI 303  
Professor: Shannon Spaulding  

Contact Information  
Office: 256 Murray Hall  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Email: shannon.spaulding@okstate.edu  

Course Description  
This course will be a semester long discussion of the philosophy of the mind. As a group, we will try to come to the most reasonable answers that we can to the following questions: What is consciousness, and how should we go about studying it? What is the relationship between the mind and the body? Is the mind just the brain, or is the mind a distinct substance? What do psychopathologies, like split-brain phenomena, schizophrenia, and autism, tell us about the mind? How do we come to understand other people’s minds? To what extent are animal minds like human minds? Is artificial intelligence possible?  

Each member of this class is expected to come to his or her own conclusions and defend them as best s/he can. You are not graded on what your opinion is. You are graded on your ability to reason through, argue for, defend, and express your ideas clearly and cogently. Consequently, a primary goal of this course is to teach you how to analyze arguments – to dissect and evaluate them – and to learn the tools and methods of reasoning needed for such an analysis.  

Required Texts (available at the University Store)  
- Gertler, B. and Shapiro, L. Arguing About the Mind. Routledge  

Graded Assignments  
- Five reaction papers: 40%  
- Twenty quizzes: 20%  
- Midterm exam: 20%  
- Final exam: 20%  

You will have to write five reaction papers. A reaction paper should be no longer than a page and a half, and preferably just a page. In this paper you should:  

1. Interpret an argument from the text, being clear about its premises and conclusions  
2. Defend or criticize the argument with an argument of your own.  

These papers will be due every other week. You should submit your papers through D2L. Go to our course page on D2L and select “Dropbox.” Papers are due by the time class starts. The five papers are worth 8% each, totaling 40% of your final grade. You must turn in all five reaction papers to get credit for any of them.  

We will have twenty reading quizzes throughout the semester. I will ask one open-ended question about the reading assigned for that day. Quizzes are worth 1% each, totaling 20% of your final
grade. They are graded on a 0 – 1 scale: 1 for correct answers, .5 for partially correct answers, 0 for incorrect answers or missed quizzes. You cannot makeup quizzes.

In addition, there will be a take-home exam and a final paper worth 20% each. The take-home exam will cover material from the first half of the semester. The paper is 5-7 pages, can be on any topic covered in class, and is due during final exams.

**Late Work Policy**

Late work will be accepted with a penalty of 10 points per day. Work that is turned in later than one week from the due date will receive a zero. Extensions will be granted on a case-by-case basis and only for what I judge to be a sufficiently good reason.

**Disabilities**

I urge any student who has physical or learning disabilities that will affect class attendance or performance to speak with me during the first week of class. We will work with the Student Disabilities Services to accommodate your needs.

**Policy on Written Work**

All written work must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides using Times New Roman, 12-point font or a similar font and type size. Please number your pages.

Plagiarism consists of using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own. If you copy others' words, you must put them in quotations marks and cite them. If you paraphrase others' words or ideas, you must cite them. Plagiarism is a very serious offense and will not be tolerated. If I catch you plagiarizing, you will receive a zero on the assignment and an F in the course. Consult the Statement of Academic Integrity and the Office of Academic Affairs if you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism.