

**PHIL-435: *Philosophy of Mind***  
**(Bernd Buldt, F07)**

**Course Description**

**Contact information**

Office: NF130B

Office hours: Mo, Wed, Fr, 1:15pm – 2:00 pm, or by appointment

Phone: (260) 481-6091

E-mail: [buldtb@ipfw.edu](mailto:buldtb@ipfw.edu) (I don't reply to e-mails over the weekend)

**Course description**

To understand, examine, and critically assess major theories in the philosophy of mind.

**Course objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be expected (transferable skills):

- to have further improved critical reading and writing skills;
- to think and write clearly about issues in the philosophy of mind.

Students are expected in particular to:

- identify and discuss different theories about the mind and examine problems in their light;
- integrate philosophical perspectives on the mind into an examination of values and beliefs they themselves or others may hold.

**Course text**

Jaegwon Kim: *Philosophy of Mind*, (2nd edition), Cambridge/MA: Westview Press, 2006.

**Attendance**

All class sessions take place in KT150. Attendance is required for a successful completion of the course; if you can't attend, you must notify me before class starts. Missing class unexcused three times means you can't receive a better grade than "D;" missing class unexcused five times means you'll receive the grade "F;" two tardinesses or early departures equal one unexcused absence. That attendance is required also means that you are responsible for all material covered in class including handouts, changes in deadlines, and announcements generally. Use of cell phones in class is not permitted.

**Class participation**

Class participation is expected of everyone as this is a highly exchange-oriented class. The better you prepare the assigned text, the more you'll benefit from class room discussion.

**Disabilities statement**

If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (Walb, room 113, telephone number 481-6658), as soon as possible to work out the details. Once the Director has

provided you with a letter attesting to your needs for modification, bring the letter to me. For more information, please visit the web site for SSD at <http://www.ipfw.edu/ssd/>.

### **Grading policies**

Students will have to write and submit four short essays; see the syllabus for the essays' due dates. Written homework assignments will be given out at least a week before the due date of the essay. No late assignments will be accepted. Extensions will be given only in extraordinary circumstances, e.g., serious illness or family emergency, and only before the due date of the assignment. If you think you may need an extension, contact me as soon as possible by e-mail or phone. Early submissions of draft versions is strongly encouraged; each essay may be rewritten once feedback has been provided.

In order to be accepted, every essay must be type written, double-spaced, multiple pages stapled and consecutively numbered, with the student's name on the top right of the first page. No e-mail attachment will be accepted, unless the student has secured permission to do so in advance.

All written work must be your own. If you use someone else's words or ideas, these sources must be appropriately cited. **Plagiarism/cheating** will result in an "F" in this class and possibly further disciplinary action by the department, school, and university; see your student handbook and the bulletin for regulations and policies on academic honesty.

At the end of the course, there will be a 30 min oral examination. Course work counts towards the final grade as follows:

Class participation	20%
Each essay	15%
Final exam	20%

### **Scale for final grade**

100%–97%	A+	
96%–93%	A	Excellent
92%–89%	A-	
88%–85%	B+	
84%–81%	B	Good
80%–77%	B-	
76%–73%	C+	
72%–69%	C	Sufficient
68%–65%	C-	
64%–61%	D+	
60%–57%	D	Weak
56%–53%	D-	
below 53%	F	Failure

### **Remark**

Please, remember that your academic success and your personal well-being are important to me. Do not hesitate to contact me, whenever you feel like doing so or something is on your mind.