All materials of this course (course readings, lecture slides, handouts, etc.) are the intellectual property of the course instructor or licensed to be used in this course by the copyright owner. Redistribution of these materials by any means without permission of the copyright holder(s) constitutes a breach of copyright and may lead to academic discipline. No video or audio recording of the classes is allowed unless you ask for and receive my permission.

This course is an advanced introduction to the philosophy of mind. Its objective is to introduce you to a variety of philosophical issues about the nature of the mind, especially issues that arise in connection with scientific research on the brain. The course will focus on the nature of consciousness and the self. What is consciousness and how is it related to the brain, the rest of the body, and the physical world? Can consciousness be explained in physical terms? Can there be a scientific understanding of consciousness or will consciousness remain forever mysterious? Is there a self or is the self an illusion? Guided by these questions, we will examine consciousness and the sense of self across a wide variety of states, including awake perception, dreaming, lucid dreaming, deep sleep, out-of-body experiences, dying and near-death experiences, as well as meditative states. We will draw from a wide variety of sources, including contemporary philosophy of mind, Indian philosophy, and Buddhist philosophy, as well as cognitive science, especially the neuroscience of consciousness, sleep science, and the neuroscience of meditation. Upon successful completion of the course, you will have a broad comprehensive knowledge of both scientific findings and philosophical positions about the nature of consciousness and the self, along with philosophical tools for analyzing scientific research on the mind and body.
Required Readings
Evan Thompson, *Waking, Dreaming, Being: Self and Consciousness in Neuroscience, Meditation, and Philosophy*. Electronic and hard copy editions available at the UBC Bookstore, amazon.com, amazon.ca, chapters.indigo.ca, iTunes, barnesandnoble.com
Additional readings will be available online, through the UBC library, or at Canvas, as indicated below on the course schedule.

Requirements
3 papers, each 1/3 of your final grade. Length 1500 words maximum. Instructions for writing these papers will be posted separately at Canvas.

Statement on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is intellectual theft and occurs when an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as their own. Scholarship rests on examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. When another person’s words (i.e., phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else’s work as one’s own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student’s own. Using ChatGPT or other AI content generators to generate any portion of your written work counts as plagiarism in this course. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. For further information, please review the UBC Calendar Academic regulations for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty (See the UBC Calendar, under “Academic Regulations,” and “Student Conduct and Discipline”: http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0.)

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FAILURE OF THE ASSIGNMENT as well as possible further disciplinary action by the University.

Email Policy
The following guidelines apply to email communication during this course:

- I will make every effort to reply to legitimate email inquiries with 24 hours during weekdays but will likely take longer to respond to email during the weekend.
- Each email message should include in the Subject line the course identifier and a clear statement of purpose (e.g., PHIL 451: Question about Paper).
SCHEDULE

Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are the ones you should do each week. The others inside the boxes are supplementary readings that I will use in the lectures and that you can consult when you write your papers. WDB = Evan Thompson, Waking, Dreaming, Being.

Week 1: Jan. 9 & 11. Introduction
*WDB, Prologue, Introduction, Chapter 1.

Week 2: Jan. 16 & 18. Looking for Awareness


Week 3: Jan 23 & 25. The Hard Problem of Consciousness
*David Chalmers, “Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness,”
http://consc.net/papers/facing.html


Week 4: Jan 30 & Feb. 1. Illusionism: Could Consciousness Be an Illusion?

| Daniel C. Dennett, “Facing Up to the Hard Question of Consciousness,” | https://www ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6074080/
Week 5: Feb 6 & 8. Is the Stream of Consciousness an Illusion?
*WDB, Chapter 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is Perceptual Consciousness Continuous or Discrete?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Mind Wandering

Week 6: Feb 13 & 15. Pure Awareness and the Primacy of Consciousness
*WDB, Chapter 3.
*Adam Frank, Marcelo Gleiser, and Evan Thompson, “Consciousness” (at Canvas)

|---------------------------------------------------|

Week 7: Feb 20 & 22: Reading Week

Week 8: Feb. 27 & 29. Neuroscience Theories of Consciousness
*Anil K. Seth and Tim Bayne, “Theories of Consciousness,” https://www.nature.com/articles/s41583-022-00587-4

Week 9: March 5 & 7. Neurophenomenology and the Cognitive Science of Meditation
*Sina Fazelpour and Evan Thompson, “The Kantian Brain: Brain Dynamics from a Neurophenomenological Perspective,” at
Antoine Lutz et al., “Investigating the Phenomenological Matrix of Mindfulness-Related Practices from a Neurocognitive Perspective,”


Week 10: March 12 & 14. Dreaming and Lucid Dreaming
*WDB, Chapters 4, 5 & 6

**Lucid Dreaming**

Daniel C. Dennett, “Are Dreams Experiences?” https://dl.tufts.edu/concern/pdfs/tm70n6786
Daniel C. Dennett, “The Onus Re Experiences: A Reply to Emmett,” https://dl.tufts.edu/concern/pdfs/0r967g49t

**Dreaming: Hallucination or Imagination?**


*WDB, Chapter 7.

Week 12: March 26 & 28. Dreamless Sleep
*WDB, Chapter 8.


**Week 13: April 2 & 4. Death**  
*WDB, Chapter 9*


**Week 14: April 9 & 11. The Self**  
*WDB, Chapter 10*

- Thomas Metzinger, “The No-Self Alternative,” [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/592b5bbfd482e9898c67fd98/t/5d17b3e432ce2550001db9a7d/1561834437216/no-Self_metzinger.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/592b5bbfd482e9898c67fd98/t/5d17b3e432ce2550001db9a7d/1561834437216/no-Self_metzinger.pdf)