

San José State University
Humanities and Arts/Philosophy Department
Philosophy 159, Philosophy of Mind, 1; Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Anand J Vaidya
Office Location:	FOB 205
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Email:	anand.vaidya@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	T and R; 12:00 to 2:00 or by Appointment
Class Days/Time:	T and R; 15:00 to 16:15
Classroom:	BBC 125

Faculty Web Page

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at www.anandvaidya.weebly.com .

Course Description

This course will discuss issues in the philosophy of mind pertaining to consciousness and other mental states, such as perception, belief, and desire. The methodology of this course will be cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary. Material for the course will come from philosophy, cognitive science, neuroscience, as well as non-western traditions, such as classical Indian philosophy. Special attention will be given this term to yoga and meditation in relation to scientific investitaiton.

Learning Outcomes (Required) and Course Goals (Optional)

Learn about topics and issues in philosophy of mind.

Learn how to analyze and engage in reasoning in the philosophy of mind.

Learn how to write analytically and argumentatively about topics in the philosophy of mind.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Waking, Dreaming, and Being by Evan Thompson. Columbia University Press.

Other Readings

Additional Readings will be posted at my website.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

There will be readings each week. There will be a midterm exam, and one paper. The paper is the final exam.

Grading Policy

Specify your grading policy here. [University Greensheets \(Syllabi\) Policy F06-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F06-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F06-2.pdf> provides the following guideline:

The midterm exam will be worth 50% of your grade. The final exam will be worth 50% of your grade.

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the material. Questions about the material should be prepared as well as directions for further investigation. Classroom discussion depends on the preparedness of the students involved.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Philosophy 159 / Philosophy of Mind, Fall 2015, Course Schedule

Schedule Subject to Change Depending on Instructors Understanding of Student Needs

Date	Topic	Assignment
R, Aug, 20	Classical, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Mind	
T, Aug, 25	Seeing: What is Consciousness?	WDB: Ch. 1
R, Aug 27	Waking: How Do We Perceive?	WDB: Ch. 2
T, Sep 1	Being: What is Pure Awareness?	WDB: Ch. 3
R, Sep, 3	Dreaming: Who Am I?	WDB: Ch. 4
T, Sep, 8	Witnessing: Is This a Dream?	WDB: Ch. 5

R, Sep, 10	Imagining: Are We Real?	WDB: Ch. 6
T, Sep, 15	Floating: Where Am I?	WDB: Ch. 7
R, Sep, 17	Sleeping: Are We Conscious in Deep Sleep?	WDB: Ch. 8
T, Sep, 22	Dying: What Happens When We Die?	WDB: Ch. 9
R, Sep, 24	Knowing: Is the Self an Illusion?	WDB: Ch. 10
T, Sep, 29	Exam Review & Take Home Exam Passed Out	
R, Oct, 1	Take Home Exam- DUE IN CLASS	
T, Oct, 6	Yoga Theory and Practice	YKR: 1-40
R, Oct, 8	Yoga Theory and Practice	YKR: 1-40
T, Oct, 13	Yoga and Metaphysics	YKR: 41-67
R, Oct, 15	Yoga and Metaphysics	YKR: 41-67
T, Oct, 20	No Class	
R, Oct, 22	No Class	
T, Oct, 27	Yogic Passages in the Upanishads	YKR: Appendix A
R, Oct, 29	Yogic Passages in the <i>Bhagavad Gita</i>	YKR: Appendix B
T, Nov, 3	<i>The Yoga Sutra</i>	YKR: Appendix C
R, Nov, 5	Tantric Kashmiri Shaivite	YKR: Appendix D
T, Nov, 10	<i>Hatha Yoga Pradipika</i>	YKR: Appendix E
R, Nov, 12	Mindfulness	<i>Buddhist Conceptualizations of Mindfulness</i> By R. Gethin
T, Nov, 17	Mindfulness	<i>Developing Attention and Decreasing Affective Bias: Towards a Cross-Cultural Science of Mindfulness</i> By J. Davis & E. Thompson
R, Nov, 19	Mindfulness	<i>The Emotional Benefits of Mindfulness</i> By J. J. Arch & L. N. Landy
T, Nov, 24	No Class	
R, Nov, 26	No Class	
T, Dec, 1	Project Discussion Day	Bring Presentation to Class
R, Dec, 3	Project Discussion Day	Bring Presentation to Class
T, Dec, 8	Project Discussion Day	Bring Presentation to Class
R, Dec, 10	Final FOB 205 4pm.	

