

PHIL 471-01: PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

TR 4:20-6:00pm

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Office Hours E&T A422: MW 11:50am-1:20pm & TR 12:50-1:20pm, 3:20-4:10pm

What is the mind? Is it just the brain? In some sense, this must be the answer. We have good reason to believe that our thoughts, pains, sights, smells, pangs of sadness, and thrills of joy are correlated with various sorts of neural activity. But how does this work? How is even possible? Does it even make sense to say that the smell of freshly cut grass is the same sort of thing as a bunch of neurons firing? This is the mind-body problem. The problem is as old as philosophy itself. Some think it's a non-problem and that philosophers should simply let neuroscientists do their work. Others think that the problem will never be solved. Some think that philosophers can and should continue to try to sort out the theoretical basis for the scientific study of the mind. In this course we will analyze some classical and contemporary attempts to deal with this deep puzzle.

Texts: Kim, Jaegwon, *Philosophy of Mind*, 3rd edition, Westview Press.

Other Readings will be posted on Moodle and are available in David Chalmers, ed. *Philosophy of Mind*, Oxford University Press.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	C	68-71
A-	89-92	C-	64-67
B+	84-88	D+	59-63
B	80-83	D	55-58
B-	76-79	D-	51-54
C+	72-75	F	0-50

Exams

There will be two exams, each worth 50% of your grade for the course. The exams will each consist of 4 in-class essay questions, chosen from a list of 6, which will be posted on the Moodle one week before the exam date. (The second exam is *not* cumulative).

Instead of taking the second exam, students may opt to write a 6-10 page paper, due the same day as the exam. This will be more challenging than taking the exam, but philosophy majors who wish to improve their philosophical writing skills or work on a writing sample for graduate school may wish to take advantage of this option. If you plan on writing a paper, you must see me in office hours well in advance of the due date so that we can discuss your ideas for the paper.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted only if you arrange for it in advance, or if you present a documented excuse (like a doctor's note) for a genuine emergency. Otherwise, no make-up quizzes or exam will be given.

Course Goals (Student Learning Outcomes)

You will get a thorough introduction to the questions, issues and leading theories of analytic philosophy of mind, from substance dualism, through behaviorism, identity theory, functionalism, property dualism, mental causation, mental content, and consciousness. Familiarity with these concepts and theories will enable you to effectively engage current debates within philosophy, psychology, and cognitive science on the nature of the human mind.

Course Topics and Readings

The following is the tentative course schedule. Slight adjustments may be necessary due to the needs of the class.

Jan. 6 – Course Introduction

- Reading: Kim, Chapter 1

Jan. 8 – Substance Dualism

- Readings: Descartes, *Meditations*; *The Passions of the Soul*; Correspondence with Princess Elisabeth; Kim, Chapter 2

Jan. 13 – Substance Dualism

- Readings: Huxley, “On the Hypothesis that Animals are Automata, and its History”; Broad, “Mechanism and Its Alternatives”; Kim, Chapter 2

Jan. 15 – Behaviorism

- Readings: Ryle, “Descartes’ Myth”; Kim, Chapter 3

Jan. 20 – Behaviorism

- Readings: Putnam, “Brains and Behavior”; Kim, Chapter 3

Jan. 22 – Identity Theory

- Readings: Place, “Is Consciousness a Brain Process?”; Kim, Chapter 4

Jan. 27 – Identity Theory

- Readings: Smart, “Sensations and Brain Processes”; Kim, Chapter 4

Jan. 29 – Functionalism

- Readings: Putnam, “The Nature of Mental States”; Kim, Chapter 5; ***First Exam Questions Posted***

Feb. 3 – Functionalism

- Readings: Lewis, “Psychophysical and Theoretical Identifications”; Kim, Chapter 5

Feb. 5 – First Exam

Feb. 10 – Functionalism

- Readings: Armstrong, “The Causal Theory of the Mind”; Kim, Chapter 6

Feb. 13 – Functionalism

- Readings: Block, “Troubles with Functionalism”; Kim, Chapter 6

Feb. 17 – Mental Causation

- Readings: Kim, “The Many Problems of Mental Causation”; Kim, Chapter 7

Feb. 19 – Mental Causation

- Readings: Yablo, “Mental Causation”; Kim, Chapter 7

Feb. 24 – Intentionality

- Readings: Dretske, “A Recipe for Thought”; Kim, Chapter 8

Feb. 26 – Intentionality

- Readings: Horgan and Tienson, “The Intentionality of Phenomenology and the Phenomenology of Intentionality”; Kim, Chapter 8

Mar. 3 – Property Dualism

- Readings: Nagel, “What is it Like to be a Bat?”; Kim, Chapter 9

Mar. 5 – Property Dualism

- Readings: Jackson, “Epiphenomenal Qualia”; Kim, Chapter 9

Mar. 10 – Property Dualism

- Readings: Kripke, “Naming and Necessity”; Kim, Chapter 10; *Second Exam Questions Posted*

Mar. 12 – Property Dualism

- Readings: Levine, “Materialism and Qualia: The Explanatory Gap”; Kim, Chapter 10

Mar. 17 – Second Exam 4:30pm-7pm or Papers Due

Cheating and Plagiarism

You must do your own work for the class. If you cheat on any assignment, you will receive a zero on that assignment. For more information you can see the section on plagiarism on the CSULA website: <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/senate/handbook/appf.htm>.

Students with Disabilities

The University provides reasonable accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. Faculty members fully support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will provide reasonable accommodation to any student with a disability who is registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) and needs and requests accommodation. OSD may be contacted to verify the presence of a disability and to confirm that accommodation is necessary. The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), located in Student Affairs Room 115 coordinates all documentation of disabilities.

(323-343-3140) <http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/osd/>