

Introduction to Philosophy of Mind

Lecture Time: TBA

Lecture Location: TBA

Lecturer: Chris Dragos

Office Hours: TBA

Office Location: TBA

Course Description:

What is the nature of the relationship between the mind and the brain? Is the mind identical to the brain, a product of the brain, or something (in-part) distinct from the brain? What is the relationship between the mind and behaviour? Between the mind and body? Between the mind(, body,) and the external world? Can machines think? Is the mind just like a computer? How does consciousness fit into a scientific view of reality? We will answer these and other questions about the nature of the mind from the major historical and contemporary philosophical perspectives on offer, with supplementary insight from work cognitive science and psychology.

Required Texts:

- (1) Course pack.
- (2) Additional readings posted on Blackboard.

Evaluation:

1. Short Paper (2-3 pages)	10%	Due Date TBA
2. Midterm	20%	Week 7 (in class)
3. Term Paper (4-6 pages)	30%	Due Date TBA
4. Exam	30%	Date TBA
5. Participation	10%	

Blackboard: Materials for the course (including the assignments and lecture slides) will be available on Blackboard, and all announcements will take place through Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check the Blackboard page on a regular basis and to keep up-to-date with the course. It is also your responsibility to ensure that you are receiving email that is sent out through Blackboard.

Email Policy: Emails will generally be answered within 48 hours. However, emails might not be answered if (1) the relevant information is available on the course webpage or syllabus, or (2) if the question is best addressed during class or office hours (e.g. a detailed philosophical question).

Turnitin.com: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the turnitin.com service are described on the turnitin.com website.

Extensions and Late Assignments: Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day, unless prior arrangements have been made with your TA for an extension or there is a medical or family emergency (in which case documentation may be required). **Plan ahead:** you may request extensions up until 48 hours before assignments are due; after that, extensions will be granted only for illness or family emergencies.

Accessibility: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and Accessibility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from a university is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the university treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The university outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Copyright in Instructional Settings: If a student wishes to reproduce lecture presentations, course notes or other course materials, the student must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Otherwise all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings:

NOTES:

- (1) **This schedule may change.** Any changes will be announced on Blackboard.
- (2) You are expected to have the readings completed **prior** to the lecture.
- (3) Readings marked with an asterisk * will be available on Blackboard.

Week 1: Housekeeping, Overview, and Argumentation

Introduction, Overview, & a Critical Reasoning Primer
Readings: None.

Week 2: Substance Pluralism & Dualism; Behaviourism & Identity Theory

Substance Pluralism & Substance Dualism
Readings: Aristotle, *Metaphysics* (excerpt)
Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (excerpt)

Behaviourism & Identity Theory
Readings: Hempel, *The Logical Analysis of Psychology* (excerpts);
Place, "Is Consciousness a Brain Process?"

Week 3: Functionalism

Functionalism

Readings: Armstrong, “The Causal Theory of Mind”;
Putnam, “The Nature of Mental States”

Challenges to & Variations of Functionalism

Readings: Block, “Troubles with Functionalism”
Lycan, “The Continuity of Levels of Nature”;
Sober, “Putting the Function Back into Functionalism”

Week 4: Eliminative Materialism & Property Dualism

Eliminative Materialism

Readings: Ryle, “Descartes’ Myth”;
Churchland, “Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes”

Property Dualism

Readings: Chalmers, *The Conscious Mind* (excerpts)

[Short Paper Due]

Week 5: Consciousness & Qualitative Experience

Readings: Nagel, “What is it Like to be a Bat?”;
Jackson, “What Mary Didn’t Know”;
Jackson, “Epiphenomenal Qualia” (excerpts);
Chalmers, “Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness” (excerpts)

Week 6: Functionalism & Representationalist Views on Qualia

Functionalism & Qualia

Readings: Lewis, “What Experience Teaches”;
van Gulick, “Understanding the Phenomenal Mind: are we All Just Armadillos?”

Representationalism & Qualia

Readings: Harman, “The Intrinsic Quality of Experience”;
Block, “Inverted Earth”

Week 7: Midterm

Week 8: Rationalism & Empiricism

Readings: Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (excerpt);
Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (excerpt);
Kant, *A Critique of Pure Reason* (excerpt)

Week 9: Computationalism

The Mind as a Computer

Readings: Turing, “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”;
Block, “The Mind as the Software of the Brain”

Objections to Computationalism

Readings: Searle, “Minds, Brains, and Programs”;
Dennett, “Can Machines Think?”
Dennett, “True Believers”

Week 10: On the Sub-Cognitive

The Frame Problem

Readings: Fodor, “Modules, Frames, Fridgeons, Sleeping Dogs and the Music of the Spheres”;
Dennett, “Cognitive Wheels” (excerpt)

Philosophy & Psychoanalysis

Readings: Freud, *Project for a Scientific Psychology* (excerpts)
Neumann, *The Origins & History of Consciousness* (excerpts)

Week 11: Cognitive Externalism

Extended & Distributed Cognition

Readings: Clark & Chalmers, “The Extended Mind”;
Hutchins, “Cognition in the Wild” (excerpts)

The Epistemology of Cognitive Externalism

Readings: Palermos & Pritchard, “Extended Knowledge & Social Epistemology”
Dragos, “From Science Wars to Social Epistemology: A Half-Century of Views About the Social Nature of Knowledge”

[Term Paper Due]

Week 12: Review

[Exam Date & Time TBA]