

Philosophy 170: Philosophy of Mind  
DRAFT SYLLABUS

Summer 2018, C Session  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:45a.m.-12:50p.m.  
Bunche 1221A

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Office Hours (tentative): R 1:30-2:30 p.m.

**Course Overview**

This class will pursue the questions of what it is to *think* and how it is that minds *represent*. We will pursue these questions oriented by the divide between *internalist* and *externalist* theories of mental representation and by the task of integrating minds and representation into a scientific or naturalistic picture of the world. We will pay particular attention to answers drawing on dispositional and computational properties, on the one hand, and those drawing on normative and teleological properties, on the other. Along the way, we will consider questions like the following: Can machines think? What is the normative status of truth and correct belief? Can evolutionary biology tell us something about the nature of representation? How are neurological states related to mental states? Are psychological properties realizable by different kinds of materials? Is *representation* the core feature of minds, or are consciousness, function, or organization more fundamental? Readings will include classic articles from the twentieth century as well as current work in philosophy of mind.

## Course Materials

*Required:* Chalmers, David (2002). *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

*Optional:* Hattiangadi, Anandi (2007). *Oughts and Thoughts*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

*Highly Optional:* Kim, Jaegwon (2011). *Philosophy of Mind*. (Third Edition) Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

All other readings will be made available on the CCLE website.

## Difficulty

This course assumes no prior background in philosophy of mind. However, it is not an introduction to philosophy and the material will be relatively challenging. Doing well in the course requires sustained engagement with the ideas and arguments we discuss, careful and critical reading of challenging texts, and the development and exercise of the skills of philosophical writing.

In short, to excel in this course, you should expect to:

- Do all assigned readings *and engage* (take notes, evaluate, etc.)
- Attend lecture *and engage* (take notes, ask questions, etc.)
- Complete all of the online reading responses (see below)
- Work hard on papers (and submit them on time)

The course will be a focused look into a few particularly significant debates in philosophy of mind. It does not provide a systematic introduction to the field, but I will not assume any prior familiarity with any particular area or works of philosophy or cognitive science. The readings and issues will nevertheless be challenging, and we will move through a range of readings and arguments relatively quickly. This means you are less likely to be bored for long by any given topic. It also means that you will have to keep up with the readings and remain diligent about engaging with and keeping track of the course material as we proceed.

## Course Requirements

1. Submitted questions, to be completed **by 8pm** on Wednesdays.
2. Two papers (3-4 pages, 4-6 pages).
3. Regular lecture attendance.

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

- *Participation*: 10%
  - *Reading questions*: 15%
  - *Short paper*: 30%
  - *Final Paper*: 45%
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- Students needing an academic accommodation because of a disability should notify the UCLA Center for Accessible Education and the instructor within the first two weeks of the quarter.
    - The CAE is at A255 Murphy Hall; its phone number is (310) 825-1501.
  - Late papers will be docked by **one-third of a letter grade**, and docked an additional third of a letter grade every twenty-four hours after the due date.
  - Late papers will not be accepted after seven days beyond the due date.
  - No extensions will be granted within 24 hours of a deadline or after the deadline has passed.

## **Electronics**

This class has a no-electronics policy. Please do not use cell phones, laptops, tablet computers, etc. during lecture. Please be in touch with the instructor before the quarter begins if there is a special reason why you may need to use a laptop during our class.

## **Reading Questions**

On Wednesdays, students submit one *brief* reading summary (one or two paragraphs), on any one of the week's readings, and one or two good questions about any of the week's readings through the CCLE website. 1/3 of the grade will be determined by completion. 1/3 will be determined by the quality of the summary. 1/3 will be determined by the quality of the questions. This is designed to be straightforward if you have done at least one of the readings. Late submissions are not accepted.

## **Papers**

SHORT PAPER (3-5 pages)

Due August 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m. to Turnitin via CCLE.

FINAL PAPER (4-6 pages)

Due September 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m. to Turnitin via CCLE.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are responsible for abiding by UCLA's policies regarding academic and intellectual integrity: <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity>

In accordance with these policies, any suspected plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Dean of Students.

## Course Schedule (subject to change)

Note: This is a 4-unit summer course, and the readings have been selected with that in mind. I will let you know as we proceed which readings, and which parts of those readings, to prioritize if you are short on time. I have selected readings that are for the most part not overly technical and for the most part can be approached in isolation, i.e., without requiring full competence with any previous particular reading. The paper topics will mostly focus on particular readings or particular debates.

\*=reading is included in the Chalmers anthology

### **UNIT 1: MINDS, BRAINS, AND MACHINES**

Week 1: Introduction, Functionalism, Multiple Realizability

Read: “The Nature of Mental States”, Hilary Putnam\*

Read: Excerpt from “Troubles with Functionalism”, Ned Block\*

Read: “Special Sciences (or: The Disunity of Science as a Working Hypothesis)”,  
Jerry Fodor\*

Read: “Multiple Realization and the Metaphysics of Reduction”, Jaegwon Kim\*

Optional: “Who’s Afraid of Disjunctive Properties?”, Louise M. Antony

### **UNIT 2: REPRESENTATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STATES**

Week 2: Reference in Language and Thought

Read: “On Sense and Reference”, Gottlob Frege

Optional: “The Thought”, Gottlob Frege

Read: Excerpts, *Naming and Necessity*, Saul Kripke

Read: “The Meaning of ‘Meaning’”, Hilary Putnam\*

Optional: “Causal Content”, Lynne Rudder Baker

Week 3: Semantic Externalism and Mental Content

Read: “Individualism and the Mental”, Tyler Burge\*

Read: “Two Thought Experiments Revisited”, Tyler Burge

Read: “Individualism and Psychology”, Tyler Burge

Optional: “Individualism and Supervenience”, Jerry Fodor

Read: “Incomplete Understanding, Deference, and the Content of Thought”, Mark  
Greenberg

### UNIT 3: THOUGHTS, BELIEFS, AND CORRECTNESS

#### Week 4: The Skeptical Argument

Read: Excerpt from *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language* (1982), Saul Kripke

Optional: “The Rule-Following Considerations”, Paul Boghossian

Read: “The Normativity of Content”, Paul Boghossian

Read: “The Sceptical Argument”, Anandi Hattiangadi

Optional: “The Individual Strikes Back”, Simon Blackburn

Read: “Meaning Normativism: Against the Simple Argument”, Kathrin Gluer-Pagin and Asa Wikforss

**\*\*SHORT PAPER DUE Aug 27<sup>th</sup> AT 11:59 p.m. TO TURNITIN\*\***

#### Week 5: How Content Could be Normative

Read: “Is Meaning Normative?”, Anandi Hattiangadi

Read: “Does Thought Imply Ought?” Krister Bykvist and Anandi Hattiangadi

Read: “Against Content Normativity”, Kathrin Gluer-Pagin and Asa Wikforss

Read: “Biosemantics”, Ruth Millikan\*

Optional: “Teleological Theories of Mental Content”, Karen Neander

#### Week 6: The Normativity of Belief, Return to Functionalism

Read: “The Truth Norm and Guidance: a Reply to Gluer and Wikforss”, Asbjorn Steglich-Petersen

Read: “The Truth Norm and Guidance: a Reply to Steglich-Petersen”, Kathrin Gluer-Pagin and Asa Wikforss

Read: “Why Think” excerpts, Ronald De Sousa

Read: “Minds, Machines, and Godel”, J.R. Lucas

Read: “Lucas against Mechanism”, David Lewis

**\*\*FINAL PAPER DUE Sept 14<sup>th</sup> AT 11:59 p.m. TO TURNITIN\*\***