

Philosophy7: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:15-2:50 p.m.
Fowler A139

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Office Hours: MW 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Course Overview

This class provides an introduction to some of the central issues in the philosophy of mind. Our focus will be on the nature of the mind, and in particular on the relation between the mind and the body. Within that focus, the course divides into three units. In the first unit, we will engage the issue of naturalism versus supernaturalism about the mind, oriented around the possibility of mental causation. In the second unit, we will explore the particular difficulties posed by consciousness for understanding the mental in terms of physical or material stuff. In the third unit, we will consider the distinct issues posed by mental representation in understanding the nature of mind and its relation to the natural world. Readings will be drawn from a range of authors in philosophy and cognitive science, both historical and contemporary.

Waitlist

I will not accept students from the waitlist and I will not give out PTE numbers. If you are on the waitlist, you are advised to have a back-up.

Course Materials

There is no textbook for this course. All readings will be made available on the CCLE website. Please check the course website frequently for updates.

Difficulty

This course has no prerequisites. However, it is not an easy A. It requires sustained engagement with the ideas and arguments of the course, careful and critical reading of difficult texts, and the development and exercise of the skills of philosophical writing.

In short, you *must*

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

Doing all of these things is necessary to doing well in this course. But it is not sufficient. It will not be enough to just do all of the readings and attend all the class meetings. One must personally engage with the issues of the course and be prepared to challenge oneself, both by subjecting one's own opinions to scrutiny and by continually improving one's own philosophical writing.

Course Requirements

1. Online quizzes, to be completed **before class**.
2. Three writing assignments (1-2 pages, 3-5 pages, and 6-7 pages).

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

- *Online quizzes*: 10%
- *Very short paper*: 15%
- *Short paper*: 30%
- *Final Paper*: 35%
- *Participation*: 10%

- Participation will be measured by section attendance, participation in section, and how well you are prepared.
- THE USE OF COMPUTERS, PHONES, ELECTRONIC TABLETS, ETC. IS NOT PERMITTED IN LECTURE (unless requested by OSD).
- Students needing an academic accommodation because of a disability should notify the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) within the first two weeks of quarter.
 - OSD is at A255 Murphy Hall; their phone number is (310) 825-1501.
- Late assignments will be docked by **5 points** (out of 100), and docked an additional 5 points every twenty-four hours after the due date.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be on the CCLE course website. There will be a quiz for most class days. If there is no quiz up by 10pm the night before class, there will be no quiz for that class meeting. Quizzes must be completed **before class**. Usually, they will contain two questions that should be easy to answer if one has both *done the reading* and *attended the previous lecture*. Quizzes can only be accessed once and have a time limit, so do the reading *before* attempting the quiz.

Papers

VERY SHORT PAPER (1-2 pages)

Understanding

Due _____ at 12:01 a.m. to Turnitin.

SHORT PAPER (3-5 pages)

Evaluation

Due _____ at 12:01 a.m. to Turnitin

FINAL PAPER (either 3-5 pages *or* 6-7 pages—see assignment)

Argument and Assessment

Due _____ at 12:01 a.m. to Turnitin

Academic Integrity

Be familiar with and abide by UCLA's policies regarding academic and intellectual integrity: <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity>

In accordance with these policies, any suspected plagiarism will be forwarded to the Dean of Students. Do not plagiarize. Cite *all* of your sources.

Course Schedule (subject to change—check course website regularly)

UNIT 1: THE MIND IN NATURE

Week 1: Soul, Mind, and Brain

Read: “What Kinds of Minds are There?” (1996) by Daniel Dennett, pp. 1-7.
Read: “The Passions of the Soul” (1649) by René Descartes, sections 1-19 and 27-37.

Week 2: Mental Causation

Read: “Princess Elisabeth Against Descartes” (2011) by Jaegwon Kim, pp. 26-50.
Read: Correspondence between Princess Elisabeth and Descartes (1643), pp. 1-7.

Week 3: The Case for Naturalism

Read: “Body” (2001) by Tim Crane, sections 9, 11-13.
Read: “On the Hypothesis that Animals are Automata” (1874) by Thomas Huxley, pp. 563-570, 573-577.

Week 4: Psychological and Physical Properties

Read: “Special Sciences (or: The Disunity of Science as a Working Hypothesis)” (1974) by Jerry Fodor
Read: “Multiple Realization and the Metaphysics of Reduction” (1992) by Jaegwon Kim
Read: “Who’s Afraid of Disjunctive Properties?” (2003) by Louise M. Antony

ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE _____ AT 12:01 a.m. TO TURNITIN

UNIT 2: CONSCIOUSNESS

Week 5: The Hard Problem

Read: “A Visit to the Phenomenological Garden” (1991) by Daniel Dennett.
Read: “The Puzzle of Conscious Experience” (1995) by David Chalmers.

Week 6: Explanatory Gaps and Arguments for Dualism

Read: “What is it Like to be a Bat?” (1974) by Thomas Nagel.
Read: “Epiphenomenal Qualia” (1982) by Frank Jackson, short excerpt.
Read: “The Knowledge Argument” and “Subjectivity” (2005) by Edward Fessler.

Week 7: Neural Correlates and Arguments for Physicalism

Read: “Experimental Strategies” from *Brain-wise* (2002) by Patricia Churchland.
Read: “Mind as the Brain” from *Philosophy of Mind* (2011) by Jaegwon Kim.

Week 8: Theories of Mental States—Mind-Brain Identity

Read: “Sensations and Brain Processes” (1959) by J.J.C. Smart
Read: “Is Consciousness a Brain Process?” (1956) by U.T. Place, sections 1-2

Week 9: Theories of Mental States—Functionalism

Read: “The Nature of Mental States” (1967) by Hilary Putnam
Read: “Psychophysical and Theoretical Identifications” (1972) by David Lewis
Read: “Mad Pain and Martian Pain” (1980) by David Lewis

UNIT 3: COGNITION

Week 10: What is Cognition?

Read: “The Puzzle of Representation” (2001) by Tim Crane.
Read: “What is Thought?” (2013) by Tim Bayne.

ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE _____ AT 12:01 a.m. TO TURNITIN

Week 11: Perception and Consciousness

Read: “Uncanny Sight in the Blind” (2010) by Beatrice de Gelder.
Read: “Navigation” (2008) by John Pearce, pp. 265-271, 276-283.

Week 12: Thought and Consciousness

Read: “Unconscious Processing” (2004) by Susan Blackmore.
Read: “The Unconscious and the Explanation of Behavior” (1990) by John Searle.

Week 13: Theories of Content

Read: “Two Thought Experiments Revisited” (1982) by Tyler Burge.
Read: “Narrow Content and Wide Content” (1998) by Jaegwon Kim.
Read: “Biosemantics” (1989) by Ruth Millikan

Week 14: Cognition and Computation

Read: “Computing Machinery and Intelligence” (1950) by Alan Turing, pp. 433-442.
Read: “Can Machines Think?” (1985) by Daniel Dennett.

Week 14: Computation and Functionalism

Read: "Minds, Machines, and Gödel" (1961) by J.R. Lucas

Read: "Lucas against Mechanism" (1979) by David Lewis

Read: "Why Think?" (2007) excerpts, by Ronald de Sousa

ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE _____ AT 12:01 a.m. TO TURNITIN