



PHIL 3---: Philosophy of Mind

Class Time: TBD

Class Location: TBD

Instructor: Chris Rahlwes

Email: TBD

How to reach me: *Please drop by my open office hours (TBD) or email me to make an appointment (either in-person or online). Always include PHIL 3--- in the subject of your email for a quicker response. I will respond within 48 hours Monday-Friday.*



Course Description:

This course provides you with an introduction to 21st c. philosophy of mind with a few historical asides (e.g., European Early Modern and Classical Indian Philosophy). In so doing, the course will put forward the categories of *body/brain* and *mind* and discuss what possible relationship these two have. In so doing, we will cover dualism, behaviorism, the identity theory, and functionalism as possible ways of capturing this relationship. We will also address the nature of consciousness and how it connects to the *brain/mind* relationship. The *brain/mind* relationship as well as the phenomena of consciousness will make up the majority of the course, but we will also briefly address intentionality.

Course Goals:

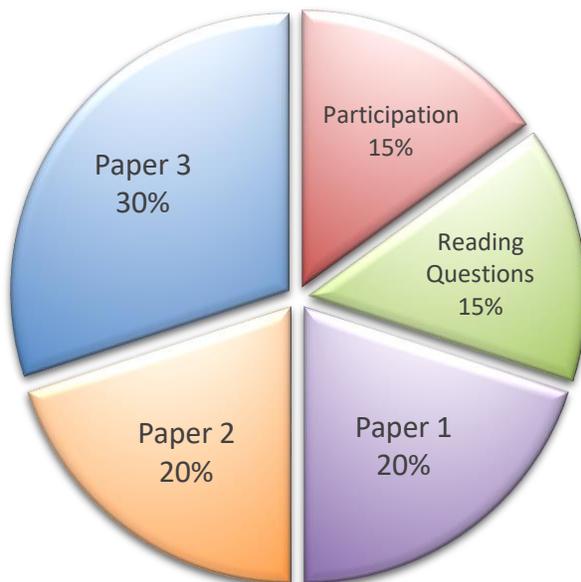
By the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Communicate (orally and in writing) the ideas and arguments presented in the readings as well as your own.
 2. Evaluate and analyze different resolutions to the mind/body problem.
 3. Identify the nature of consciousness and qualia.
 4. Advancing positions based on these texts using the tools of philosophical argument.
 5. Develop a research project on the mind/body problem, intentionality, or consciousness within the philosophy of mind.
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Means of Evaluation

- **Participation (15%).** Participation will be measured through active class engagement as well as group questions and workshops.
- **Reading Questions (15%).** The Sunday before each class you are required to email two questions you have regarding the readings for the week (at least one question must be on the primary text). These will help guide the lecture throughout the week.
- **Paper 1 (20%) 4–6 Pages.** This paper focuses on your ability to explain a key philosophical principle clearly and precisely from one of our texts. Your grade is determined by your accuracy in demonstrating you understand the author’s position, the structure of your paper, and if your argument is compelling. You are allowed up to two revisions of this paper.
- **Paper 2 (20%) 4–6 Pages.** Same as Paper 1, but you must focus on a different philosophical principle or text.
- **Paper 3 (30%) 8–10 Pages.** This paper is a revision of Paper 1 or Paper 2, in which you further develop your explanation, ideas, and/or argument. This paper is the culmination of the course and shows your ability in designing a research project that is philosophically fruitful. You will be asked to submit a brief prospectus for this paper.

Weighted Grade



Letter Grade Cutoffs:

Grade	Percentage
A	93%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	83%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	73%
C-	70%
D+	67%
D	63%
D-	60%
F	Below 60%

Note: These are cut-off points: *decimals will not be rounded up.* Temporary grades: N (no basis for grade), I (incomplete grade), X (final assessment absence)

Required Materials:

- All course readings will be available online.
- You will need to bring material to write, take notes, and access the internet during class.
- You will need a word processor (such as [Google Docs](#) or [Microsoft Word](#)), a pdf reader (such as [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)), and a web browser.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

	Date	Topic/Readings	Assignments
Module 1: Mind-Body Theories			
Week 1		Introduction to the Course Dualism <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> 	
Week 2		Dualism: the Mind/Body Problem <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish <i>Meditations</i> • Descartes and Princess Elisabeth, <i>Correspondence</i>, selections 	Weekly Questions
Week 3		Dualism and Behaviorism <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryle, <i>The Concept of Mind</i>, selections • Ryle, <i>Descartes' Myth</i> 	Weekly Questions
Week 4		Identity Theory <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place, "Is Consciousness a Brain Process?" • Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes" • Armstrong, "The Causal Theory of the Mind" 	Weekly Questions
Week 5		Functionalism <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putnam, "The Nature of Mental States" • Block, "Troubles with Functionalism" 	Weekly Questions

Week 6		Anomalous Monism and Intentional Causation <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Davidson, "Mental Events" Kim, "Epiphenomenal and Supervenient Causation" 	Weekly Questions
Module 2: Intentionality			
Week 7		Intentionality <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chisholm, <i>Perceiving</i>, selections Quine, <i>Word and Object</i>, selections from chapter six. Fodor, "Propositional Attitudes" 	Weekly Questions
Week 8		Computationalism and the Chinese Room <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Searle, "Minds, Brains, and Programs" Fodor, "Methodological Solipsism Considered as a Research Strategy in Cognitive Psychology" Stitch, "Pay the Price for Methodological Solipsism" 	Paper 1 Due Weekly Questions
Module 3: Speech Acts			
Week 9		Indian Dualism and Consciousness <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Īśvarakṛṣṇa, <i>Sāṃkhyakārikā</i>, selections Śaṅkara, <i>Vedāntasūtrabhāṣya</i>, selections 	Weekly Questions
Week 10		"State" Consciousness <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armstrong, "What is Consciousness?" Nagel, "What is it Like to Be a Bat?" 	Weekly Questions

Week 11		What is it Like? <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackson, "Epiphenomenal Qualia" • Jackson, "What Mary Didn't Know" 	Weekly Questions
Week 12		Sensory Qualities <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chisholm, <i>Theory of Knowledge</i>, selections from chapter six. • Jackson, "The Existence of Mental Objects" 	Paper 2 Due Weekly Questions
Week 13		Commissurotomy and Identity <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagel, "Brain Bisection and the Unity of Consciousness" 	Weekly Questions
Finals Week			Paper 3 Due

Resources Available to All Students: **TBD**

College is a challenging time in your life.

Here is a list of resources that can help you navigate your experience as a student at TBD. It is important to remember that you are not alone, and these resources are there for you when you need help to achieve your academic goals.