

Themes:

There are several answers to the question, what is the mind? The answer prominent in the last decade or so of science-oriented philosophy is that the mind is something the brain/body (materialism) does (functionalism). We will explore some of the main controversies stirred by this answer, in particular, whether materialism and whether computer-oriented models of functioning do justice to the reality of subjective experience.

Schedule of Readings:

I have proposed a schedule of readings that seems doable to me but it seems foolish to stick to it slavishly especially if interest or need prompts change in focus or tempo. I want the liberty to modify it in consultation with participants in the course while preserving its basic outline.

Requirements:

Students are required to write three short analytical papers ('major' assignments) and a number of shorter writing assignments, some of which will be graded. Occasionally brief oral presentations may be required which will also be submitted in writing

Students are required to have workable internet access. A listserv or online mailing list will be installed for the course. Some discussion and exchange of writing will use this medium. An on-line 'chat' group will also be made available. At a minimum students are responsible for checking their e-mail regularly for important notices relating to course activities.

All writing assignments must satisfy some very definite standards which are set forth in the on-line *Course Handbook*. Due dates for major writing assignments will be announced a week in advance. Late written work may not be accepted.

The grade in the course is mainly an average of graded writing assignments, with a proportion of the grade relating to certain of the on-line assignments (no more than 10-15%); intelligent participation in discussion be rewarded. Opportunities for graded oral presentations will be available.

PLEASE NOTE: Absences can be penalized and excessive absence is grounds for failing the course! *Please take this warning seriously!*

Office Hours: Thursdays from 2:00 - 4:00 but prefer to schedule any mutually agreeable times by appointment. I'm available!

Texts:

Required texts; other readings will be available on Library Reserve or as Handouts.

Matter and Consciousness by Paul Churchland

Mindware, Introduction to Philosophy of Cognitive Science by Andy Clark

The Nature of Mind edited by David Rosenthal

Reading Schedule:*subject to revision depending on flow of discussion and interest.*

week			Main reading
1 st	09-07	Other Minds	Rorty: Persons Without Minds Russell: On Analogy Malcolm: Knowledge of Other Minds
2 nd	09-14	Self-Knowledge	Armstrong: Is Introspective Knowledge Incorrigible? Ryle: Self-Knowledge
3 rd	09-21	Other Minds: Animals	Malcolm: Thoughtless Brutes Davidson: Thought and Talk Davidson: Rational Animals
4 th	9-28	Materialism	Churchland: The Ontological Problem Nagel: "What Is It Like To Be a Bat?" Dennett: Animal Consciousness Tye: "The Problem of Simple Minds" Clark: "Consciousness and the Meta-Hard Problem"
5 th	10-05	Materialism: Kinds	Smart: Sensations and Brain Processes Shaffer: Mental Events and the Brain Campbell: Central State Materialism
6 th	10-12	Materialism: Qualia	Jackson: "What Mary Didn't Know" Dennett: 'Quining Qualia' Churchland: "Knowing Qualia: A Reply to Jackson" Dennett: "The Unimagined Preposterousness of Zombies" Churchland: 'Inverted Spectrum Arguments'
7 th	10-19	Materialism: Functionalism	Putnam: The Nature of Mental States Block: Troubles with Functionalism Lewis: Mad Pain and Martian Pain
8 th	10-26	Other Minds: Machines	Churchland: Chapters 5 and 6 Turing: Computing Machinery and Intelligence Dennett: True Believers Dennett: Do Animals Have Beliefs? Searle: Minds, Brains and Programs
9 th	11-02	Frontiers of AI	Clark: Mindware (selections) Clark/Chalmers: "The Extended Mind"
10 th	11-09	The Disassembled Self	Nagel: Brain Bisection Dennett: Self As Center of Narrative Gravity v. Inwagen: Resurrection P. Geach: "What Must Be True of Me If I Survive My Death?"