

PHIL7 – Introduction to Philosophy of Mind

Summer 2022, Session A

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Time: WF 10:45am-12:50pm (Zoom)

Zoom link: <https://ucla.zoom.us/j/98363937042?pwd=cnlieDFLY1ZpalU3OUZTVFNBRzJoZz09>
(passcode: 926516)

Office Hours: WF 12:50pm-1:50pm or by appointment (Zoom: same link and passcode as above)

Course Description:

In this course, we'll be looking at philosophical ideas on the nature of mind. The central themes of this course are consciousness and perception. Some questions we'll address include (but not limited to): What is a mind?; What are mental properties?; How do minds have the content they have?; What is the relationship between the mind and the external world?; What is the nature of perceptual experience?; Is direct perception of the external world ever possible? In this course, you will discover various different answers to these questions as well as many others.

Course Materials:

All materials will be available through Bruin Learn. There is no required textbook for the course. If you are looking for an introductory guide you're encouraged to check out these books:

- Chalmers, David. Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings. 2002.
- Crane, Tim. Elements of Mind: An introduction to the Philosophy of Mind. 2001.
- Crane, Tim. The Contents of Experience: Essays on Perception. 1992.

Course Requirements and Grading:

1. Weekly Reflections (25%)
2. First Paper (25%)
3. Final Paper (35%)
4. Attendance (5%) and Participation (10%)

In order to do well in this course you will need to:

- Attend lectures and sections regularly; and take notes.
- Complete all the course readings.
- Work hard on each of the assignments and submit them on time.

1. Weekly Reflections:

You will be required to submit only one reflection each week (beginning Week 2) on Bruin Learn. Your reflections should be well-put and relevant to the day's topic. In your reflections you should not merely summarize the readings. You should instead raise relevant questions

and argue for/against some opinion in the readings. Each of your reflections must be 150-200 words.

Submissions will be graded as follows: Satisfactory: 80%, Good: 90% and Excellent: 100%. You should submit your questions **no later than 10:30AM** the day before each class day (Wednesdays). This assignment will be worth 25%. Late submissions will not be accepted.

2. Papers:

In this course, writing is a continual process. The paper assignments will give you the opportunity to improve your critical thinking and writing skills. More specifically, you will learn how to connect ideas logically, how to introduce and conclude, and how to cite sources. You are required to submit **two** short papers via turnitin.com on Bruin Learn. You may write on a topic (discussed in class) of your choice. Your first paper must be 750-1,000 words. Your final paper must be 1,000-1,200 words.

Late Assignments:

Unexcused late papers will be penalized one-third of a grade for each day late. So if you submit your assignment after the deadline, and it's nominally graded an A, the recorded grade will be an A-.

All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

Extension Policy:

If you need an extension on any of the assignments for this course, you may request it from your TA via email (at least 24 hours in advance).

Lectures:

All lectures will be recorded and posted on Bruin Learn. I will also prepare power point slides which will be posted too.

Participation:

Participation in lectures and sections is an important part of this course. In addition to class participation, you should visit your TA and me outside of class to discuss your papers. You can do so either by coming to regular office hours or by making an appointment. TA contact information and office hours will be posted on the course website.

3. Discussion Sections:

Section participation is a required part of the course. You should prepare at least **two** questions before attending each section. Your participation grade will be entirely depended on how well you're engaged with the discussions. Attendance alone will not be sufficient to get participation points.

As a matter of courtesy to your fellow students, please be on time to your discussion section.

Zoom Policy:

During live lectures please raise your hand if you'd like to participate. You're also welcome to participate via the text chat. You're encouraged to keep your cameras on.

Academic Integrity:

You are expected to abide by UCLA's policies on academic misconduct. You may wish to review the flyer on academic misconduct that has been prepared by the Dean of Students: <https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/portals/16/documents/studentguide.pdf>. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden. All submitted assignments will be checked for plagiarism by TurnItIn. You should write your own papers and properly attribute ideas and words that you include in your writing. A student caught plagiarizing will be immediately reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Regulation A-306 (C). If you are ever unsure whether something you include in your assignments might be academic misconduct, contact your TA or me for advice.

Accommodation:

I will do my best to accommodate you. If you have a disability or another special need, you can notify me or your TA via email and the Center for Accessible Education (<http://www.cae.ucla.edu>).

Resources:

- UCLA'S guidelines for academic integrity: <https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/portals/16/documents/studentguide.pdf>
- UCLA Writing Programs: <https://www.wp.ucla.edu/>
- The Center for Accessible Education (<http://www.cae.ucla.edu>)

Tentative Schedule (6/22-7/29):

All required readings and assignments are listed below.

Schedule of course readings is subject to alteration. There may be additional readings. Any changes to the readings will be recorded on the course website.

Week 1:

Wed., June 22: Introduction and Overview

no required reading

Fri., June 24: Dualism

1. Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy II and VI*
2. Descartes, *Passions of the Soul* (Excerpt)

Week 2:

Wed., June 29: Behaviorism

1. Rudolf Carnap, *Psychology in Physical Language* (Excerpt)
2. Hilary Putnam, *Brains and Behavior*

Fri., July 1: The Identity Theory

1. U. T. Place, *Is Consciousness a Brain Process?*
2. Herbert Feigl, except from *The "Mental" and the "Physical"*

Wed., June 29th: REFLECTION DUE 10:30AM

Week 3:

Wed., July 6: Functionalism; The nature of mental states

1. Hilary Putnam, *The Nature of Mental States*

2. D. M. Armstrong, *The Causal Theory of the Mind*

Fri., July 8: The nature of mental states cont.; Mental causation

1. Donald Davidson, *Mental Events*
2. Stephen Yablo, *Mental Causation*

Wed., July 6th: REFLECTION DUE 10:30AM

Fri., July 8th: FIRST PAPER DUE 11:59PM

Week 4:

Wed., July 13: Consciousness

1. Ned Block, *Concepts of Consciousness*
2. Thomas Nagel, *What Is It Like to Be a Bat?*

Fri., July 15: Representationalism

1. Fred Dretske, *Conscious Experience*
2. Christopher Peacocke, *Sensation and the Content of Experience: A Distinction*

Wed., July 13th: REFLECTION DUE 10:30AM

Week 5:

Wed., July 20: Intentionality

1. Franz Brentano, *The Distinction between Mental and Physical Phenomena* (Excerpt)
2. Fred Dretske, *A Recipe for Thought*

Fri., July 22: Internalism and Externalism

1. Hilary Putnam, *The Meaning of "Meaning"* (Excerpt)
2. David J. Chalmers, *The Components of Content*

Wed., July 20th: REFLECTION DUE 10:30AM

Week 6:

Wed., July 27: Internalism and Externalism cont.

1. Andy Clark and David J. Chalmers, *The Extended Mind*

Fri., July 29: Wrapping up

1. A. J. Ayer, *Freedom and Necessity*

Wed., July 27th: REFLECTION DUE 10:30AM

Fri., July 29th: FINAL PAPER DUE 11:59PM