

Philosophy of Mind (V83. 0080) – Summer Session, 2004

Instructor: Sinan Dogramaci

Time: Monday – Thursday, 11:30am – 1pm.

Location: Tisch UC58

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Office: 503P, Silver Center

Office Hours: TBA, and by appointment

Required Texts:

(1) David Chalmers (ed.), *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings* (Oxford University Press, 2002)

(2) Jaegwon Kim, *Philosophy of Mind* (Westview, 1998)

Both these books are available at the NYU bookstore located at 18 Washington Place.

Additional readings will be handed out throughout the course.

Grading:

Midterm Exam: 30%

Paper: 40% (your grade will be based both on a draft, and on the final product)

Final Exam: 30%

Resource Materials for Philosophy:

You should carefully read Jim Pryor's advice on how to read a philosophy paper

(<http://www.princeton.edu/~jimpryor/general/reading.html>), and, when the time comes, how to write a philosophy paper (<http://www.princeton.edu/~jimpryor/general/writing.html>). The advice on this site is extremely good and important. Very many good philosophy courses in the English speaking world advise their students to study this website. Reading and writing philosophy is very different from how it is in the other humanities.

NYU offers free internet access to several excellent online reference tools. To be able to access some of these sites from off-campus, you will need to set up an NYU internet proxy. It's not hard to do. Instructions are available at <http://library.nyu.edu/help/proxy.html>.

A list of online philosophy resources is available at

<http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/philo/resources/index.html>. One of the best items is the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. The *Stanford Encyclopedia* is also quite good.

Topics and Readings

This list will have to be revised from time to time. We can focus more on what you are interested in learning about, and we will delete some topics and readings if I decide they are unnecessary.

I'll make announcements about scheduling in class.

We'll read approximately one article per class, sometimes two.

Articles not found in the Chalmers anthology are marked with an asterisk, and will be handed out in class.

Introduction

Chapter 1 of Kim

Dualism

Descartes, Meditations II and VI

(Glance at Passions of the Soul, and Smullyan, "An Unfortunate Dualist")

Behaviorism

Ryle, "Descartes' Myth"; Kim chapter 2 (up to p.32)

*Turing, "Computing Machinery and Intelligence"

Putnam, "Brains and Behavior"; rest of Kim, chapter 2

Identity Theory

Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes"

Kim, Chapter 3

Interlude: What is Physicalism?

*Stoljar, "Physicalism"

Functionalism

*Block, "What is Functionalism?"; Kim, Chapter 4; Putnam, "The Nature of Mental States"

Lewis, "Psychophysical and Theoretical Identifications"; Kim, Chapter 5

MIDTERM EXAM

Psychology, Physics, and Reduction

Fodor, "Special Sciences"; Kim, "Multiple Realization and the Metaphysics of Reduction";

*Fodor, "Special Sciences, Still Autonomous After All These Years"

Criticisms of Physicalism, and the Problem of Consciousness

Block, "Troubles with Functionalism"; Searle, "Can Computers Think?"; (Optional: *Searle, "Minds, Brains, and Programs")

Nagel, "What is it Like to be a Bat?" (Optional: McGinn, "Can We Solve the Mind-Body Problem?")

Jackson, "Epiphenomenal Qualia"; Lewis, "What Experience Teaches"

Kripke, excerpts from *Naming & Necessity*

[Hill, "Imaginability, Conceivability, Possibility and the Mind-Body Problem"]

Eliminativism

Dennett, “Quining Qualia”

[Dennett, “True Believers: The Intentional Strategy and Why it Works”; (Optional: Paul Churchland, “Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes”)]

DRAFT OF PAPER DUE

Meaning and Representational Content

*Stalnaker, from *Inquiry*, “The Problem of Intentionality”

Fodor, “Propositional Attitudes”

Putnam, excerpt from “The Meaning of ‘Meaning’”; Kim, Chapter 8

*Fodor, “Why there still has to be a LOT”

The Naturalization of Representational Content

Dretske, “A Recipe for Thought”

*Fodor, “Meaning and the World Order” (chapter 4 of *Psychosemantics*)

[Brandom, “Reasoning and Representing”]

FINAL DRAFT OF PAPER DUE

Concepts

*Greenberg & Harman, “Conceptual Role Semantics”, *Block, “Semantics, Conceptual Role”

*Fodor, “Having Concepts: A Brief Refutation of the 20th Century”

FINAL EXAM