

# PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Fall 2012

Instructor: Daniel Lim

Schedule: Fridays, 14:00-15:30

Location: Room 2106

Office Hours: Fridays, 12:45-13:45 (409 Renwen)

Email: [daniel.f.lim@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.f.lim@gmail.com)

Website: <http://pstruc.org/english/teaching.asp>

## I. COURSE SYNOPSIS

This course surveys the major issues and positions that have come to define the philosophy of mind in the contemporary Western tradition. In trying to answer the broad question: "what is 'mind'?" we will be considering answers to a number of more specific questions including: how does mind relate to the brain? Can minds exist in non-human bodies? What is it like to have experience? How do minds affect the physical world? How do minds latch onto or refer to the world? Can computers become minds?

## II. READINGS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Block, Ned. "Troubles With Functionalism."

Chalmers, David. *The Conscious Mind*.

Churchland, Paul. "Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes."

Clark, Andy. *Mindware: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Cognitive Science*.

Crane, Tim. *The Mechanical Mind*.

Descartes, René. *Meditations on First Philosophy*.

Davidson, Donald. "Actions, Reasons, and Causes."

Davidson, Donald. "Mental Events."

Hempel, Carl. "The Logical Analysis of Psychology."

Jackson, Frank. "Epiphenomenal Qualia."

Jackson, Frank. *From Metaphysics to Ethics*.

Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*.

Kim, Jaegwon. *Physicalism or Something Near Enough*.

Kripke, Saul. *Naming and Necessity*.

Lewis, David. "Mad Pain and Martian Pain."

Lycan, William. *Mind and Cognition: An Anthology*.

Nagel, Thomas. "What is it Like to be a Bat?"

Putnam, Hilary. "Psychological Predicates"

Ramachandran, V.S. *A Brief Tour of Human Consciousness*.

Ryle, Gilbert. *The Concept of Mind*.

Searle, John. *Freedom and Neurobiology*.

Searle, John. *Minds, Brains, and Science*.

Smart, J.J.C. "Sensations and Brain Processes."

Turing, Alan. "Computing Machinery and Intelligence."

## III. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Most of the lectures will be devoted to a detailed discussion of an assigned article or book chapter. Everyone is expected to study the relevant reading assigned for that week and come prepared to

discuss and raise questions about it. Active participation will be crucial to your understanding of the issues in the course and for success in the course.

There are no make-up exams, except in cases when the student, due to reasons outside his / her control, are able to provide appropriate documentation such as an official medical certificate.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and has serious consequences for students' grades and future careers. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind is not tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Instances of academic dishonesty include submitting a paper downloaded from the internet or any work of which you are not the author, copying material from any source without a citation, and using someone else's language, research or ideas without acknowledgment. If you are unclear as to whether or not something constitutes plagiarism, or if you require assistance properly citing the work of others in your coursework, please do not hesitate to contact me.

#### **IV. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SCALE**

10% - Attendance and Participation  
25% - Four Reading / Reflection Summaries  
25% - Midterm Exam  
40% - Final Exam

##### Attendance and Participation

Attendance in this course is mandatory. Students are required to sign an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class. Students may miss one class without penalty, but should take care to acquire notes from other classmates for any information or assignments missed. Absences in excess of this one excused absence will adversely affect the attendance portion of the student's grade.

All assigned readings should be completed prior to class and students may be called upon to describe, explain, or interpret course material at any time.

##### Exams

Two exams will be given in this course. The exams will be comprised of multiple choice, true / false, and short essay questions.

##### Reading Summaries / Reflections

Students will turn in 2-3 page summaries of a portion of the assigned reading. There will be 4 summaries. The aim is for students to have an opportunity to reflect on the readings and class discussions.

##### **C.O.D.E.** as Rubric:

1. Conclusion – state the conclusion of the reading in 1-2 sentences.
2. Outline – give a single paragraph summary of the author's strategy.
3. Details – provide reasons and for each of the parts of the author's strategy.
4. Evaluation – give a brief critique of the reading.

Summary 1 (dualism): Descartes, René. *Meditations on First Philosophy*, meditations 1, 2.

Summary 2 (identity): Smart, J.J.C. "Sensations and Brain Processes." *Philosophical Review*.

Summary 3 (causation): Kim, Jaegwon. *Physicalism of Something Near Enough*, chapter 2.

Summary 4 (AI): Searle, John. *Minds, Brains, and Science*, chapter 2.

## V. TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

**Week 1: Introduction**

Sept. 14

Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*, ch. 1

**Week 2: Descartes – Mind / Body Dualism**

Sept. 21

\* Descartes, René. *Meditations on First Philosophy*, meditations 1, 2, 6  
Ryle, Gilbert. “Descartes’ Myth”

**Week 3: Eliminative Materialism**

Sept. 28

\* Churchland, Paul. “Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes.”  
Dennett, Daniel. *Consciousness Explained*, ch. 5

**No Lecture:** No Class - Holiday

Oct. 5

**Week 4: Behaviorism**

Oct. 12

Hempel, Carl. “The Logical Analysis of Psychology.”

\* Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*, ch. 2

Putnam, Hilary. “Brains and Behavior.”

**\*\* Reading Summary 1**

**Week 5: Identity – Token / Type Theories**

Oct. 19

\* Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*, ch. 3

Lewis, David. “Mad Pain and Martian Pain.”

Smart, J.J.C. “Sensations and Brain Processes.”

**Week 6: Functionalism**

Oct. 26

Block, Ned. “Troubles With Functionalism.”

\* Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*, ch. 5

Lewis, David. “Psychophysical and Theoretical Identifications.”

Putnam, Hilary. “Psychological Predicates.”

**Week 7: Physicalism**

Nov. 2

\* Jackson, Frank. *From Metaphysics to Ethics* (chapter 1).

Horgan, Terence. “From Supervenience to Superdupervenience.”

**\*\* Reading Summary 2**

**Week 8: Mental Causation**

Nov. 9

Davidson, Donald. 1970. “Mental Events.”

\* Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*, ch. 6

Kim, Jaegwon. *Physicalism or Something Near Enough*, ch. 2

**Week 9: Kripke – Proper Names and Definite Descriptions**

Nov. 16

Kripke, Saul. *Naming and Necessity*, lecture 1

**\*\* Midterm Exam**

**Week 10: Kripke – A Posteriori Identities and Identity Theories**

Nov. 23

Kripke, Saul. *Naming and Necessity*, lectures 2, 3

**Week 11: Consciousness and Qualia**

Nov. 30

Churchland, Paul. *Matter and Consciousness*

Jackson, Frank. "Epiphenomenal Qualia."

\* Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*, ch. 7

Nagel, Thomas. "What is it Like to be a Bat?"

**Week 12: Intentionality - Representation**

Dec. 7

Crane, Tim. *The Mechanical Mind*, ch. 1

\* Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*, ch. 8

**\*\* Reading Summary 3**

**Week 13: Intentionality - Reference**

Dec. 14

Crane, Time. *The Mechanical Mind*, ch. 5

**Week 14: Cognitive Science – Machine Intelligence**

Dec. 21

Clark, Andy. *Mindware*, ch. 1

\* Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*, ch. 4

**Week 15: Cognitive Science - Critics**

Dec. 28

\* Searle, John. *Minds, Brains, and Programs*, ch. 2

Turing, Alan. "Computing Machinery and Intelligence."

**Week 16: Free Will and Action**

Jan. 4

\* Searle, John. *Minds, Brains, and Programs*, ch. 6

Davidson, Donald. "Actions, Reasons, and Causes."

**\*\* Reading Summary 4**

**Week 17: Wrapping Up**

Jan. 11

No Reading

**Week 18: \*\* Final Exam**

Jan. 18