

Graduate Philosophy of Mind

course number here

John M. DePoe, course instructor
office room number here

office hours here
e-mail here; office phone here

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Grade Scale</u>												
Big Paper: 60%	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Presentation: 20%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Short Papers: 20%													

Required Texts

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

Other texts listed in the reading schedule will be provided through the course website. These have been marked with an asterisk (*) in the reading schedule.

Course Description

This course will engage issues in contemporary studies of the philosophy of mind. Some issues will include the current approaches to the mind-problem problem, current theories of consciousness, the problem of mental causation, and the content of thought.

Paper Requirement

Students will write a 15-20 page paper for the course that focuses on one of the readings or topics for this course. This paper will count for 60% of the student's overall grade. More specific instructions about the paper will be given in class. Students are strongly encouraged to consult the instructor for advice and help in writing their papers.

Presentation & Participation & Short Papers

Each student will give one class presentation that is aimed to raise critical discussion of the assigned reading for that day. Presentations should be prepared to last for a minimum of 15 minutes, and should be primarily critical in nature. Students are also expected to participate in class through discussion and other appropriate means. The presentation and participation constitute 20% of the overall grade. Additionally students will be required to write four short papers that critically respond to one aspect of the reading (for example, one argument from the reading). These papers will be around 2-3 double-spaced pages. More information will be provided in class about the due date and expectations for these papers. Each short paper is worth 5% of the student's overall grade.

Minimal Passing Requirement

In order to pass the course students must meet two basic requirements: (1) they must turn in the big paper; and (2) they must attend three-fourths of classes. *Those who do not meet these conditions are subject to fail the course regardless of their overall average.*

Tentative Reading Schedule

Week 1: The Identity Theory

Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes"
Feigl, "The 'Mental' and the 'Physical' "

Week 2: Functionalism

Armstrong, "The Causal Theory of the Mind"
Block, "Troubles with Functionalism"

Week 3: Emergentism and Anomalous Monism

Broad, "Mechanism and its Alternatives"
Davidson, "Mental Events"

Week 4: Reduction and Supervenience

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

Week 5: Mental Causation

Kim, "The Many Problems of Mental Causation"
Yablo, "Mental Causation"

Week 6: Consciousness

Nagel, "What is it Like to be a Bat"
Dennett, "Quining Qualia"

Week 7: The Knowledge Argument

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

Week 8: The Knowledge Argument

Conee, "Phenomenal Knowledge"*
Loar, "Phenomenal States"
Jackson, "Mind and Illusion"*

Week 9: Modal Arguments

Kripke, "Naming and Necessity"
Hill, "Imaginability, Conceivability, and the Mind-Body Problem"

Week 10: Explanatory Gap

Levine, "Materialism and Qualia"
Churchland, "The Rediscovery of Light"
McGinn, "Can We Solve the Mind-Body Problem?"

Week 11: Representationalism

Rosenthal, "Explaining Consciousness"
Tye, "Visual Qualia and Visual Content Revisited"

Week 12: Intentionality

Brentano, "The Distinction between Mental and Physical Phenomena"
Chisholm, "Intentional Inexistence"
Dretske, "A Recipe for Thought"

Week 13: Propositional Attitudes

Fodor, "Propositional Attitudes"
Dennett, "True Believers"
Churchland, "Eliminative Materialism and Propositional Attitudes"

Week 14: Internalism/Externalism

Putnam, "The Meaning of 'Meaning' "
Burge, "Individualism and the Mental"
Chalmers, "The Components of Content"

Week 15: Internalism/Externalism

McKinsey, "Anti-Individualism and Privileged Access"
Brueckner, "What an Anti-Individualist Knows A Priori"