

Undergraduate Philosophy of Mind Course

course number here

John M. DePoe, course instructor
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<u>Assignments</u>		<u>Grade Scale</u>												
Exam #1:	30%	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Exam #2:	30%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Exam #3:	30%													
Participation:	10%													

Required Texts

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

John Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1978).

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

Recommended Text

Samuel Guttenplan, ed., *A Companion to the Philosophy of Mind* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1996).

Course Description

This course will survey a number of important issues in contemporary philosophy of mind. Some of these issues include the viability of dualism & physicalism, the nature of consciousness, and personal identity.

Exams

Students will be given three take-home, essay exams. More details about the nature and expectations of these exams will be given in class. Each exam is worth 30% of the student's overall grade.

Attendance & Participation

Given the difficult nature of many of the readings and topics covered in this course, students are expected to attend class regularly. Students will receive 10% of their overall grade based on their attendance and participation in the course.

Minimal Passing Requirement

In order to pass the course students must meet two basic requirements: (1) they must take all of the exams; and (2) they must attend at least 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: Intro to Philosophy of Mind

Weeks 2: Dualism

Descartes, *Meditations*

Week 3: Behaviorism

Ryle, "Descartes's Myth"

Putnam, "Brains and Behavior"

Week 4: Identity Theory

Place, "Is Consciousness a Brain Process?"

Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes"

Weeks 5-6: Functionalism

Armstrong, *Nature of Mind* (excerpt)*

Putnam, "The Nature of Mental States"

Block, "Troubles with Functionalism"

Exam 1

Week 7: Artificial Intelligence

Searle, "Can Computers Think?"

Week 8: Problem of Mental Causation

Kim, "The Many Problems of Mental Causation"

Weeks 9-11: Consciousness

Nagel, "What is it Like to be a Bat"

Jackson, "Epiphenomenal Qualia"

Lewis, "What Experience Teaches"

Conee, "Phenomenal Knowledge"*

Week 12: Eliminative Materialism

Churchland, *Matter and Consciousness* (excerpt)*

Reppert, "Eliminative Materialism, Cognitive Suicide, and Begging the Question"*

Exam 2

Week 13-15: Personal Identity

Locke, "The Prince and the Cobbler"*

Reid, "On Mr. Locke's account of our Personal Identity"*

Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality**

Swinburne, "A Defense of Dualism"*

Exam 3