

**Philosophy 575: Philosophy of Mind**  
Fall 2007 Syllabus  
Prof. Clare Batty

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Office Hours: M 11:30-1:00, Th. 1:00-2:30, or by appt.

**Course Description**

This course is an examination of many of the central issues in a branch of philosophy called philosophy of mind. Is the mind an immaterial thing? Or is the mind the brain? Or does the mind stand to the brain as a computer program stands to the hardware? How can creatures like us have thoughts that are "about" things? (For example, I can hope that the Red Sox will win the World Series and you can believe that they will not. That is, we can all think "about" the Boston Red Sox, but what is the explanation of this remarkable ability?) Can consciousness be given a scientific explanation? In examining these questions, we will consider how conceptions of the mind have been influenced by changes in the broader scientific environment. We will see that, despite recent advances in the areas of neuroscience and cognitive science, pressing questions about the mind remain.

**Required Readings**

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

*Philosophy of Mind*, Jaegwon Kim, Cambridge, MA: Westview Press (2006).

Both are available in the bookstore.

**Reading Assignments**

There are reading assignments for each week, typically a paper or two from the Chalmers collection, and a chapter from Kim's book. Kim's book is relatively straightforward, but the readings in the Chalmers collection are often very difficult: expect to read everything at least twice. They require close study, and you should not put them off until the last minute. This course will involve a considerable amount of discussion, and if that is to be of value to us, *your careful preparation of the readings is crucial*. If you have trouble understanding what an author says, or any other question concerning the course, please do not hesitate to ask.

**Requirements**

Undergraduates:

2 papers (8-10 pages): 40% each (80%)

Class Participation: 20%

Graduates:

1 term paper (15-20 pages): 80%

Class Participation: 20%

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism means taking the words and thoughts of others (their ideas, concepts, images, sentences, and so forth) and using them as if they were your own, without crediting the author or citing the source. At this and most other universities, plagiarism is taken very seriously and will be punished in accordance with the UK Policy on Disposition of Academic Offenses. For more information on plagiarism, and how to avoid it, see:

<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf>

[http://wps.prenhall.com/hss\\_understand\\_plagiarism\\_1/0,6622,427064-,00.html](http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_understand_plagiarism_1/0,6622,427064-,00.html)

For a statement on UK's Policy on Disposition of Academic Offenses, see:

[http://www.chem.uky.edu/research/grossman/acadoffenses/new\\_policy.pdf](http://www.chem.uky.edu/research/grossman/acadoffenses/new_policy.pdf)

### **Getting Help**

I am here to help you. Feel free to email me with any questions about the material or the assignments, or come and visit me during office hours. You may also make an appointment with me outside of office hours.

### **Web Resources**

See Jim Pryor's Guidelines on reading and writing philosophy papers:

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html>

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>.

Useful glossaries are Jim Pryor's Philosophical Terms and Methods:

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/index.html>.

David Chalmers' list of Resources relating to philosophy of mind is excellent:

<http://consc.net/chalmers/>.

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP) is also excellent, but far from complete:

<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>. Chalmers provides a condensed list of those entries related to philosophy of mind at: <http://consc.net/guide.html>.

### **Classroom and Learning Accommodations**

Any student with a disability who is taking this course and needs classroom or exam accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center, 257-2754, room 2 Alumni Gym, [jkarnes@uky.edu](mailto:jkarnes@uky.edu).

## Tentative Schedule

**WEEK 1** (Aug. 22, 24)

### **Introduction**

Readings: Kim, Ch. 1  
Chalmers, Introduction to section 1, "Foundations" (1-9)

**WEEK 2** (Aug. 27, 29, 31)

### **Substance Dualism**

Readings: Kim, Ch. 2  
Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy (II and VI)", (Chalmers, Ch. 1)  
Smullyan, "An Unfortunate Dualist" (Chalmers, Ch. 4)

**WEEK 3** (Sept. 5, 7)

### **Behaviorism**

Readings: Kim, Ch. 3  
Ryle, "Descartes' Myth" (Chalmers, Ch. 5)  
Putnam, "Brains and Behavior" (Chalmers, Ch. 7)

**WEEK 4** (Sept. 10, 12, 14)

### **Identity Theory**

Readings: Kim, Ch. 4  
Place, "Is Consciousness a Brain Process?" (Chalmers, Ch. 8)  
Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes" (Chalmers, Ch. 9)

**WEEK 5** (Sept. 17, 19, 21)

### **Functionalism**

Readings: Kim, Ch. 5  
Putnam, "The Nature of Mental States" (Chalmers, Ch. 11)  
Armstrong, "The Causal Theory of the Mind" (Chalmers, Ch. 12)  
**FIRST PAPER TOPICS HANDED OUT WEDNESDAY SEPT. 19**

**WEEK 6** (Sept. 24, 26, 28)

### **Functionalism** (cont'd)

Block, "Troubles with Functionalism" (Chalmers, Ch. 14)  
Searle, "Minds, Brains and Programs" (\*handout)

**WEEK 7** (Oct. 1, 3, 5)

### **Mental Causation**

Readings: Kim, Ch. 7  
Kim, "The Many Problems of Mental Causation" (Chalmers, Ch. 22)

**WEEK 8** (Oct. 8, 10, 12)

### **Consciousness**

Readings: Kim, Ch. 8 (205-220)  
Block, "Concepts of Consciousness" (Chalmers, Ch. 24)  
Nagel, "What is It Like to Be a Bat?" (Chalmers, Ch. 25)

**FIRST PAPERS DUE MONDAY OCT. 8**

**WEEK 9** (Oct. 15, 17, 19)

**The Knowledge Argument**

Readings: Jackson, "Epiphenomenal Qualia" (Chalmers, Ch. 28)  
Lewis, "What Experience Teaches" (Chalmers, Ch. 29)  
Loar, "Phenomenal States" (Chalmers, Ch. 30)

**WEEK 10** (Oct. 22, 24, 26)

**The Explanatory Gap**

Readings: Kim, Ch. 8 (220-224)  
Levine, "Materialism and Qualia: The Explanatory Gap" (Chalmers, Ch. 35)  
Chalmers, selections from *The Conscious Mind* (\*handout)

**WEEK 11** (Oct. 29, 31, Nov. 2)

**The Explanatory Gap cont'd**

Readings: "Block & Stalnaker, "Conceptual Analysis, Dualism and the Explanatory Gap" (Chalmers, Ch. 37)  
"McGinn, "Can We Solve the Mind-Body Problem?" (Chalmers, Ch. 38)

**WEEK 12** (Nov. 5, 7, 9)

**Mental Content**

Readings: Kim, Ch. 9 (239-254)  
Brentano, "The Distinction Between Mental and Physical Phenomena" (Chalmers, Ch. 44)  
Dretske, "A Recipe for Thought" (Chalmers, Ch. 46)  
Dennett, "True Believers" (Chalmers, Ch. 52)

**WEEK 13** (Nov. 12, 14, 16)

**Externalism and Internalism**

Readings: Kim, Ch. 9 (254-272)  
Putnam, "The Meaning of 'Meaning'" (Chalmers, Ch. 54)  
Burge, "Individualism and the Mental" (Chalmers, Ch. 55)

**SECOND PAPER TOPICS HANDED OUT FRIDAY NOV. 16**

**WEEK 14** (Nov. 19)

**Catch up**

**WEEK 15** (Nov. 26, 28, 30)

**Representationalism**

Readings: Kim, Ch. 9 (224-236)  
Reid, selections from (\*handout)  
Peacocke, "Sensation and the Content of Experience" (Chalmers, Ch. 41)

**WEEK 16** (Dec. 3, 5, 7)

**Representationalism cont'd**

Readings: Harman, "The Intrinsic Quality of Experience" (\*handout)  
Tye, "Visual Qualia and Visual Content Revisited" (Chalmers, Ch. 42)

**SECOND PAPER DUE FRIDAY DEC. 7**