

PHI4333 Philosophy of Mind
Lecturer: Prof. Yao Zhihua F 8:30-11:15 UCC 110

Course description

This course introduces the contemporary philosophy of mind. By following closely the new findings in cognitive science and neuroscience, this field has become one of the fastest growing fields in contemporary philosophy. We will start with the classical issue of mind-body problem, then move to the more recent field of consciousness studies. Finally, we will look into some on-going debates on emotion and intentionality.

Assessment

- 1) Attendance and class performance (10%)
- 2) Three "position" papers (3x15%): One for each unit; less than 600 words each; peer assessment
- 3) Final paper (45%): 3000-5000 words

Schedule of the lectures:

Unit One: Mind-body problem

- Sep 9. Introduction (Nagel 1974)
Sep 16. Physicalism (Churchland 1996)
Sep 23. Property Dualism (Chalmers 2002)(Activity: Brainstory Mind I)
Sep 30. Monism (Strawson 2008)(Activity: Brainstory Mind II)
Oct 7. Going to Conference (No class)

Unit Two: Consciousness

- Oct 14. Representationalism (Dretske 1993)[FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE, ONLINE](Activity: Brainstory Consciousness I)
Oct 21. Higher-Order Theories (Rosenthal 1990)(Activity: Brainstory Consciousness II)
Oct 28. Self-representational Theory (Kriegel 2009) (Activity: Meditation)
Nov 4. Theory of Virtual Reality (Metzinger 2005)(Activity: Rubber Hand/Out of Body Experience)

Unit Three: Emotion and Intentionality

- Nov 11. Emotion (Prinz 2005)[SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE, ONLINE] (Activity: Brainstory Emotion)
Nov 18. Qualia (Crane 2000)(Activity: Brainstory Perception)
Nov 25. Intentionality: Object Theory (Madik 2009) (Activity: Hypnosis)
Dec 2. Intentionality: Adverbial Theory (Kriegel 2008)(Activity: ?)

Dec 6. [THIRD SHORT PAPER DUE, ONLINE]

Dec 20. [FINAL PAPER AND RESULT OF PEER ASSESSMENT DUE, HARDCOPY]

Reading list

Required readings (to be posted on moodle):

- Chalmers, David J., "Consciousness and Its Place in Nature", *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, ed. by David J. Chalmers, OUP, 2002.
Churchland, Paul M., "The Rediscovery of Light," *Journal of Philosophy* 93 (1996): 211-28.
Crane, Tim, "The Origins of Qualia", *The History of the Mind-Body Problem*, eds. By Tim Crane and Sarah Patterson, Routledge, 2000.
Dretske, Fred, "Conscious Experience", *Mind, New Series*, Vol. 102, No. 406 (1993): 263-283.
Kriegel, Uriah, "The dispensability of (merely) intentional objects", *Philosophical Studies* (2008) 141: 79–9.
Kriegel, Uriah, "The Self-representational Theory of Consciousness", *Subjective Consciousness: A Self-Representational Theory*, OUP, 2009.
Madik, Pete. "Beware of the Unicorn", *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 16-1 (2009).
Metzinger, Thomas, "Précis: Being No One", *Psyche* 11 (5), 2005.
Nagel, Thomas, "What is it like to be a bat?", *The Philosophical Review*, LXXXIII, 4 (1974): 435-50.
Prinz, Jesse J. "Are Emotions Feelings?" *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 12, No. 8–10, 2005, pp. 9–25.
Rosenthal, David. "A Theory of Consciousness", Report 40/1990, Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), Universität Bielefeld, Germany.
Strawson, Galen, "Realistic Monism: Why Physicalism Entails Panpsychism", OUP 2008

Further readings:

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

available)

Antti Revonsuo. *Consciousness: the science of subjectivity*. New York, NY: Psychology Press, 2010. (To be reserved in University Library)

Susan Blackmore. *Consciousness: a very short introduction*. Oxford, UK; New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 2005. (To be reserved in University Library)