

**Department of Philosophy
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2021-22 Term 2**

**PHIL5180/ PHIL7180
Special Seminar on Selected Philosophical Issues:
Mind and Consciousness**

Course Outline

Teacher: Prof. Yao Zhihua
Time: Fridays 2:30 - 5:15 pm
Teaching Mode: Online

1st session (11 March 2022)

Mind: Central Issues

A survey of classical and contemporary views in the field of philosophy of mind, including interactionism, epiphenomenalism, parallelism, eliminative physicalism, reductive physicalism, microphysicalism, emergent physicalism, neutral monism, idealism, and functionalism. Conceptual frameworks for the following sessions will also be introduced.

Required Reading:

Revonsuo, Antti. "The philosophical foundations of consciousness science" and "the conceptual foundations of consciousness science," in *Consciousness: the science of subjectivity* (New York, NY: Psychology Press, 2010), pp. 1-45 and pp. 69-97. (ebook available at CUHK library)

Recommended Reading:

Heil, John. *Philosophy of Mind: A Contemporary Introduction*, 4th Edition. London and New York: Routledge, 2019.

2nd session (18 March 2022)

Theories of Consciousness

An introduction to contemporary theories of consciousness in empirical science and philosophy, including theory of global workspace, theory of multi drafts, biological theory, first-order representational theory, higher-order perception theory, and higher-order thought theory.

Required Reading:

Revonsuo, Antti. "Theories of Consciousness", in *Consciousness: the science of subjectivity*. New York, NY: Psychology Press, 2010, pp. 175-225. (ebook available at CUHK library)

Recommended Reading:

Blackmore, Susan. *Consciousness: a very short introduction*. Oxford, UK; New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 2005. (ebook available at CUHK library)

3rd session (25 March 2022)

Self-Representationalism

An introduction to the more recent self-representational theory of consciousness and a critical engagement with it.

Required reading:

Kriegel, Uriah. "The Self-representational Theory of Consciousness," *Subjective Consciousness: A Self-Representational Theory* (OUP, 2009), pp. 1-22. (ebook available at CUHK library)

Recommended readings:

Kriegel, Uriah and Williford, Kenneth, eds. *Self-representational approaches to consciousness*. Cambridge, Mass. : MIT Press 2006.

Yao, Zhihua. "Beyond self-representationalism" (unpublished paper)

4th session (1 April 2022)

Arguments for Consciousness

An attempt to develop some arguments for consciousness, with special attention to the memory argument.

Required reading:

Kriegel, Uriah. "Appendix. Phenomenal Consciousness and Subjective Consciousness," *Subjective Consciousness: A Self-Representational Theory* (OUP, 2009), pp. 300-313. (ebook available at CUHK library)

Yao, Zhihua. "Consciousness." Forthcoming in an edited volume *Analytic Asian Philosophy*

Recommended readings:

Mark Siderits, Ching Keng, and John Spackman, eds. *Buddhist Philosophy of Consciousness: Tradition and Dialogue*. Brill, 2020.

Yao, Zhihua. *The Buddhist Theory of Self-Cognition*. London and New York: Routledge, 2005.

Requirements:

A term paper of 5,000-6,000 words in English or 8,000-10,000 characters in Chinese

Due date: Monday 9 May 2022

(To facilitate your writing, we plan to have a half-day seminar in late April when you may present your paper outlines)

Grade Descriptors:

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Contact:

Name: Prof. Yao Zhihua

Email: zyao@cuhk.edu.hk

Teaching Assistant:

Zhou Peng

Emails: zpsky_2012@hotmail.com / pengzhou@link.cuhk.edu.hk

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.