

Philosophy of Mind (801344)

Philosophy. Mandatory subject. 6 credits

COURSE: 2018/2019	INSTRUCTOR: Alfonso Muñoz Corcuera
GROUP: English	EMAIL: alfonsom@ucm.es
MEETING TIME: Th-F 11:00 to 13:00	OFFICE LOCATION: "A" Building, Office 41
LOCATION: A-338	OFFICE HOURS: Jueves de 16 a 19

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Philosophy of mind has been one of the most active areas in the philosophical landscape in the past decades. Besides the mind-body problem, the debate has focused mostly on two fundamental problems: the problem of consciousness and the problem of intentionality. We will dedicate most of the course to the analysis of the main approaches to these problems.

But philosophy of mind is not just the mind-body problem, the problem of consciousness and the problem of intentionality. We will also spend some time analyzing some of the other topics related to the philosophy of mind, like the problem of mental causation, personal identity, artificial intelligence and free will.

MANDATORY READINGS

Each student must read one of the following books and write a reading report:

- Chalmers, David J. 1996. *The Conscious Mind: In Search of a Fundamental Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Churchland, Paul M. 1995. *The Engine of Reason, the Seat of the Soul: A Philosophical Journey Into the Brain*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- Dennett, D. C. (1991). *Consciousness Explained*. New York, Boston and London: Little, Brown and Company.
- Gallagher, Shaun and Zahavi Dan. 2007. *The Phenomenological Mind: An Introduction to Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science*. London: Routledge.
- Schechtman, Marya. 2014. *Staying Alive: Personal Identity, Practical Concerns, and the Unity of a Life*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Searle, John R. 1992. *The Rediscovery of the Mind*. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.

The reading reports must contain an abstract of the book, an analysis of its relationship with the course and a personal commentary of a philosophical nature. The report must have between 4000 and 5000 words. The deadline for the reading reports will be the last day of class.

GRADING POLICY

The final grade will take into account three aspects. Attendance and participation (10%), the reading report (30%) and the final exam (60%).

CONTENTS

0. Introduction.

1. What is the philosophy of mind?
2. The concept of mind.
3. Scientific experiments and thought experiments.

1. The mind-body problem

1. Dualist accounts.
 1. Substance dualism.
 2. Property dualism.
2. Materialist accounts.
 1. Logical conductism
 2. Identity theory.
 3. Functionalism.
 4. Other accounts.
3. The linguistic dissolution.

2. The problem of consciousness

1. Mind and body
2. Qualia and the explanatory gap

3. The problem of intentionality

1. Mental contents.
2. Internism.
3. Externism.
4. Consciousness and intentionality: The intentional attitude.

4. Before coming to an end.

1. The problem of other minds.
2. Artificial intelligence.
3. Personal identity.
4. Free will.
5. Emotions.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Chalmers, David J. (ed.). 2002. *Philosophy of Mind. Classical and Contemporary Readings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Crane, Tim (2001). *Elements of Mind: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Mclaughlin, Brian *et al.* (eds.). (2009). *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Mind*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.