

Philosophy of mind

COURSE: 2024/2025

INSTRUCTOR: Alfonso Muñoz Corcuera

GROUP: English

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MEETING TIME: Th-F 11:00 to 13:00

OFFICE LOCATION: A-41

LOCATION: TBA

OFFICE HOURS:

Tu-We from 09:00 to 11:00 and
from 15:00 to 19:00
(by appointment only)

Course description

The philosophy of mind is a fundamental branch of contemporary philosophy exploring various facets of mental phenomena, encompassing metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical inquiries. This course delves into foundational questions such as the nature of mental properties, our knowledge of other minds, and ethical implications arising from the existence of mental states. Given the expansive scope and rapid advancements in cognitive sciences, this course offers a selective overview of key issues rather than comprehensive coverage.

Course objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Understand the nature of the core problems within the philosophy of mind.
2. Recognize the primary theoretical proposals that aim to address these core problems.
3. Critically analyze the main arguments supporting and opposing the existing proposals to solve these problems.
4. Identify the key philosophers who have significantly contributed to the current debates on these issues.
5. Value the significance of the philosophy of mind within the broader context of contemporary philosophy and its relevance to ongoing scientific and ethical discussions.

Contents

0. Introduction

Lesson 1: Overview of the Course

1. The Nature of the Mind

Lesson 2: Introduction to the Nature of the Mind

Lesson 3: The Limits of Mental Phenomena I: The Embodied Mind

Lesson 4: The Limits of Mental Phenomena II: The Extended Mind

Lesson 5: Test and Document Submission

2. *The Problem of Other Minds*

Lesson 6: Introduction to the Problem of Other Minds

Lesson 7: The Case of Animal Minds

Lesson 8: The Case of Artificial Intelligence

Lesson 9: Test and Document Submission

3. *Consciousness, Intentionality and Causation*

Lesson 10: The Problem of Consciousness I: Characterization of the Problem

Lesson 11: The Problem of Consciousness II: Main Arguments and Positions

Lesson 12: The Problem of Intentionality

Lesson 13: The Problem of Mental Causation

Lesson 14: Test and Document Submission

4. *The Mind-Body Problem*

Lesson 15: Dualism

Lesson 16: Materialism I: Logical Behaviorism

Lesson 17: Materialism II: Identity Theories

Lesson 18: Materialism III: Functionalism

Lesson 19: Materialism IV: Eliminativism

Lesson 20: Other Theories

Lesson 21: Test and Document Submission

5. *The Problem of Personal Identity*

Lesson 22: The Multiples Facets of Personal Identity

Lesson 23: The Nature of Personhood

Lesson 24: Personal Identity and Ethics

Lesson 25: The Persistence Question

Lesson 26: Test and Document Submission

Please note that the organization and order of lessons are tentative and subject to change. Adjustments may be made based on class progress, interest, and other considerations. Any changes to the schedule will be communicated promptly

Grading Policy

Your performance in the course will be assessed through the following components:

- **Multiple-Choice Tests (40%):** Throughout the course, you will have to complete five short multiple-choice tests. These tests will primarily assess objectives 2 and 3.

- Key Philosophers and Concepts Documents (40%): You will need to submit five documents, each summarizing the key philosophers and concepts covered in the five sections of the syllabus. Please refer to the “Key Philosophers and Concepts” document in the Virtual Campus for detailed instructions. These documents will assess objectives 1 and 4.
- Attendance and Participation (20%): Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions and activities are essential. This component assesses objective 5.

Additional Notes:

- Taking the multiple-choice tests is not mandatory, but all missing tests will result in a grade of zero.
- Submission of the Key Philosophers and Concepts Documents is mandatory. Failure to submit any document will result in a “no presentado” grade.
- Class attendance is not mandatory but is highly advisable. Your participation will not only affect your grade, but it will also affect significantly what we can achieve throughout the course.
- Any form of plagiarism, cheating, falsification or unauthorized collaboration affecting any document submitted for credit will automatically cause you to fail this course.
- There will be no final exam, neither in the regular session (February) nor in the extraordinary one (June).

Make-up Policy

If you fail or miss an assignment and wish to make up for it the following rules will apply both to the regular session in February and the extraordinary session in June:

- Multiple-Choice Tests: If you fail or miss a multiple-choice test, you can write a compensatory essay. Please refer to the “Compensatory Essays” document in the Virtual Campus for detailed instructions.
- Key Philosophers and Concepts Documents: Documents on key philosophers and concepts can be submitted at any time, but late submissions will incur a penalty of 20%.
- Attendance and Participation: There is no opportunity to make up for missed attendance or participation.

Short bibliography

Most lessons will draw from the following handbooks and edited volumes:

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

Heil, J. 2013. *Philosophy of Mind: A Contemporary Introduction*. Routledge.

Kim, J. 1998. *Philosophy of Mind*. Westview.

Mclaughlin, B. et al. (eds.). (2009). *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Mind*. Oxford University Press.

Regular use will also be made of:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://plato.stanford.edu>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://www.iep.utm.edu>