

Philosophy/PNP 315  
Philosophy of Mind  
Fall, 2018

Meeting time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:40am-1pm  
Location: 362, McDonnell

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Office hours: Wednesdays, 1-3pm, and by appointment, 112 Wilson Hall

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Course description: This is an advanced undergraduate introduction to the philosophy of mind in the Analytic tradition. We will cover some main debates in this field including the mind-body problem, the science of consciousness, knowledge of the mind and, lastly, perception. While there is no pretension of comprehensiveness in the design of the course, students who complete the course will come away with an understanding of the contours of the field which will enable them to explore further topics in this area.

Course materials: There are no required texts for this course. All readings will be posted to the class Canvas site.

Assessment: Your grade will be determined by your performance on (i) pop-quizzes (5%), (ii) three papers (70%) and (iii) a take home final exam (25%). *To pass the class you must complete all assignments (though you may miss some quizzes, see below).*

Pop-quizzes: The pop-quizzes are worth 5% of your grade. They will occur sporadically throughout the semester and are meant to assess whether you have done the reading for a given day. Even if there is much you did not understand about a given reading, if you did the reading you will be able to complete the pop-quiz. There are no make-up pop-quizzes but your two lowest pop-quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the semester so as to allow for absences.

Papers: All papers should be typeset in an ordinary font at 12pts, double spaced, with standard margins. Your first paper must be 2-3 pages in length and will be worth 10% of your grade. Your second paper must be 3-5 pages and will be worth 20% of your grade. Your third and final paper must be 4-6 pages and will be worth 40% of your grade.

Take-home exam: Your take-home exam will consist of a number of essay questions. You will be asked to select a subset of these questions and respond to them.

Submission of assignments: All assignments other than quizzes will be submitted via the class Canvas site. Assignments listed as being due on a given day are due by 11:00am CST on that day unless otherwise noted.

Late work: Work submitted after the posted deadline will be deducted one third of a grade per day late and will not be accepted after five such days. For example, if you turned in the first assignment on 9/26 you would receive an A- rather than an A, supposing your paper would have earned an A had it been turned in on time. Using the first assignment again as an example, you could not submit a paper for credit after 9/30.

ADA: Washington University is committed to providing accommodations and/or services to students with documented disabilities. Students who are seeking support for a disability or a suspected disability should contact Disability Resources at 935-4153. Disability Resources is responsible for approving all disability-related accommodations for WU students, and students are responsible for providing faculty members with formal documentation of their approved accommodations at least two weeks prior to using those accommodations. I will accept Disability Resources VISA forms by email and personal delivery. If you have already been approved for accommodations, I request that you provide me with a copy of your VISA within the first two weeks of the semester.

Technology: Research indicates that for most people technologies like laptops, tablets and cell phones correlate with negative educational outcomes when used in class. This has been found both for the user of these technologies as well as for non-technology users who sit adjacent to technology users. So, the use of such technologies will not be allowed in class. There are, however, a variety of good reasons (illegible handwriting, lack of access to a printer, DR accommodations, environmentalism, etc.) which do license the use of technology for some students in some cases. The point of the policy is for all students to have the best opportunity for success, so if there is good reason for you to use technology in class please get in touch and we will work something out.

Academic integrity: Please read Washington University's undergraduate student academic integrity policy, which can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y7cg5q8y>. Of special importance for this class is the section on plagiarism. Please do not plagiarize. If you have any questions whatsoever about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either of your instructors.

E-mail: If you write me an e-mail please allow 24 hours for a response during the week and 48 hours if you've mailed me during the weekend. The weekend begins on Friday at 5pm and ends on Monday at 9am. Generally speaking, I am much quicker than this but please do not rely on a speedier response than I have just guaranteed. Related to this, substantive philosophical issues will not be discussed over e-mail. If you have philosophical questions please bring them up in lecture or in office hours. If this isn't convenient, shoot me an e-mail to schedule an appointment to chat. No matter what you do, you will find that I am always happy to talk philosophy with you so long as it isn't via e-mail.

Drafts: In a similar vein, I will not read drafts of papers if you send them to me via e-mail. However, I would be very pleased to discuss your written work in person. Please come to my office hours or e-mail me to schedule a time to meet outside of office hours.

Class schedule: Below you will find a tentative schedule for the semester. Our class meetings will be of one of two kinds: (i) lecture or (ii) review and discussion. For lecture meetings I have listed a lecture topic as well as a reading or set of readings. This reading or set of readings should be completed *before* coming to lecture. Review and discussion meetings are opportunities for just that: review and discussion. Prior to these meetings please take time to look through your notes and identify any questions you may have about the material we have covered recently. The more you prepare for

meetings of this kind, the more useful they will be. Lastly, this schedule is very likely to change in ways which depend on our pace as we move through the readings, though the due date of assignments will not change. I will make you aware of any such changes via the class Canvas site. Please check that site regularly or set up announcement forwarding to an e-mail address which you check regularly.

Tu 8/28

-*Introduction.*

-Reading: none.

Topic 1: The mind-body problem.

Th 8/30

-*Cartesian dualism.*

-Reading: Descartes, 'Meditations on First Philosophy' (1&2).

Tu 9/4

-*Mental causation.*

-Reading: Elizabeth and Descartes correspondence; Kim, 'The Many Problems of Mental Causation'.

Th 9/6

-*The identity theory.*

-Reading: Smart, 'Sensations and Brain Processes'.

Tu 9/11

-*Behaviorism in scientific psychology.*

-Reading: Watson, 'Psychology as the Behaviorist Views It'; Tolman, 'Cognitive Maps in Mice and Men'.

Th 9/13

-*Behaviorism in philosophy.*

-Reading: Armstrong, 'Nature of Mind' (excerpt); Ryle, 'Descartes' Myth'.

Tu 9/18

**-First paper prompts handed out.**

-*Against behaviorism in philosophy.*

-Reading: Putnam, 'Brains and Behavior'.

Th 9/20

-*Review and discussion.*

Tu 9/25

**-First paper due.**

-*Functionalism.*

-Reading: Putnam, 'Psychological Predicates'; Block 'The Mind as the Software of the Brain' (up to section 1.1).

Th 9/27

-*Against functionalism, intentionality.*

-Reading: Searle, 'Minds, Brains and Programs' (commentaries optional).

Tu 10/2

-*Against functionalism, the 'qualitative' aspect of mind.*

-Reading: Nagel, 'Brain Bisection and the Unity of Consciousness'; Block, 'Troubles with Functionalism' (excerpt).

Th 10/4

-*The 'hard' problem of consciousness.*

-Reading: Chalmers, 'Facing up to the Problem of Consciousness'.

Tu 10/9

-*The 'hard' problem of consciousness, continued.*

-Reading: Jackson, 'Epiphenomenal Qualia'.

Th 10/11

-*The 'hard' problem of consciousness, continued.*

-Reading: Nagel, 'What is it like to be a Bat?'

Tu 10/16

-*No class, fall break.*

Th 10/18

-*Review and Discussion.*

Topic 2: The science of consciousness.

Tu 10/23

-*Neural correlates of consciousness.*

-Reading: Chalmers, 'On the Search for the Neural Correlates of Consciousness'.

Th 10/25

**-Second paper prompts handed out.**

-*Consciousness and cognitive access.*

-Reading: Block, 'Consciousness, Accessibility and the Mesh Between Psychology and Neuroscience' (commentaries optional).

Tu 10/30

-*Review and discussion.*

Topic 3: Knowing Minds.

Th 11/1

**-Second paper due.**

-*The problem of other minds.*

-Reading: Russell, 'Analogy'.

Tu 11/6

-*The problem of other minds, continued.*

-Reading: Putnam, 'Other Minds'.

Th 11/8

-*Knowledge of one's own mind.*

-Reading: Dretske, 'The Epistemology of Pain'.

Tu 11/13

-*Knowledge of one's own mind, continued.*

-Reading: Gopnik, 'How we Know our Minds'.

Th 11/15

-*Review and discussion.*

Topic 4: Perception.

Tu 11/20

-*The argument from illusion.*

-Reading: Broad, 'The Theory of Sensa' (excerpt); Hume, 'Of the Academic or Sceptical Philosophy'.

Th 11/22

-*No class, Thanksgiving break.*

Tu 11/27

-*Against the argument from illusion.*

-Reading: Anscombe, 'The Intentionality of Sensation: A Grammatical Feature'; Harman, 'The Intrinsic Quality of Experience' (excerpt).

Th 11/29

**-Third paper prompts handed out.**

*-Intentionalism about perceptual experience.*

-Reading: Crane, 'Is There a Perceptual Relation?'

Tu 12/4

*-Review and discussion.*

Th 12/6

**-Third paper due.**

**-Take home final handed out (due on 12/13 by 11:59pm CST).**

*-Review and discussion.*