

# Experience & Reality – Introduction to Philosophy of Mind

PHIL 230.001

Tuesday/Thursday 6:00-7:15pm

Caldwell 105

## *Instructor*

Wesley Sauret

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Office: 12A Caldwell Hall

Office Hours: After class every day until 7:45pm. There will be additional office hours around paper deadlines and by appointment.

## *Course Description*

This class will cover the main issues in the philosophy of mind. Classic problems in this branch of philosophy are: the relationship between the mind and the body, how mental states can be about objects in the world, the nature of phenomenal consciousness. I hope that by considering arguments from the assigned articles that I can acquaint you with the debates and get you to think critically about the views on offer.

## *Course Requirements*

- Paper 1 (3-4 pg): 30% of final grade
- Paper 2 (3-4 pg): 30% of final grade
- Final Paper (4 pg): 30% of final grade
- Participation: 10% of final grade

## *Explanation of Assessment*

Your performance on the three assigned papers will largely determine your grade. You will have about a week to work on each paper. I am happy to talk about your draft during office hours (and I highly recommend coming to office hours).

Your participation grade is based on several things: your attendance, how much you participate in class discussions, how often you ask questions, whether you come to office hours if you're struggling in the class, etc. The grade you get will either be (a) 100%, if you participate more than the expected average, (b) the same as your average in the class, if you participate at the minimally acceptable level, or (c) 0%, if you fail to participate in the class.

## *Other Course Policies*

Regular attendance is expected, but I will not be taking attendance. Laptops are allowed in class, but if you have a tendency to regularly check Facebook in class, please sit towards the back so you don't distract the students behind you. Papers are due at the *beginning* of class on the day they are due. Late papers will be accepted, up to three days late, but there will be a deduction of 5 points for each 24 hour period that passes after the original due date.

## *Course Materials*

All readings will be distributed on Sakai. Below you will find the readings and the order in which we will be covering the material.

## **Ontology**

1. *Dualism* – Descartes, “Second Meditation”; Campbell, “Dualisms”
2. *Behaviorism* – Ryle, “The Concept of Mind” (Excerpt)
3. *Identity Theory* – Place, “Is Consciousness a Brain Process?”; Smart, “Sensations and Brain Processes”
4. *Criticism of the Identity Theory* – Kripke, “Identity and Necessity” (Excerpt)
5. *Machine Functionalism* – Putnam, “The Nature of Mental States”
6. *Criticism of Functionalism* – Block, “Troubles with Functionalism” (Excerpt)
7. *Homuncular Functionalism* – Lycan, “The Continuity of Levels of Nature”
8. *Eliminative Materialism* – Churchland, “Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes”
9. *Philosophical Writing* – Vargas “How to Write Philosophy Papers that Don’t Suck”

## **Intentionality**

10. *Instrumentalism* – Dennett, “True Believers”
11. *Asymmetric Dependence* – Fodor, “Information and Representation”
12. *Indicator Semantics* – Dretske, “A Recipe For Thought”
13. *Consumer Semantics* – Millikan, “Biosemantics”

## **Phenomenal Consciousness**

14. *What It’s Like* – Nagel, “What is it Like to be a Bat?”
15. *Mary Argument* – Jackson, “What Mary Didn’t Know”
16. *Criticism of Mary* – Van Gulick, “Are We All Just Armadillos?”
17. *Representationalism* – Tye, “Representationalism” (Excerpt)
18. *Criticism of Representationalism* – Tye, “Blurry Images, Double Vision, and other Oddities” (Excerpt)

## **Emotions**

19. *Moral Theory* – Solomon, “Emotions and Choice”
20. *Somatic Theory* – Prinz, “Embodied Emotions”