

PHIL 4423/5423: PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Fall 2007

MWF 2:30-3:20

MAIN 323

Jack Lyons

MAIN 312; MF 11:20–12:20, W 9:30–10:30 or by appointment

575-5825

jclyons@uark.edu

Humans and other animals are capable of thought, emotion, consciousness, and understanding. Galaxies, trees, rocks, and chairs are not. Why is this? Is it merely that we are more complicated, or that we are made out of a different kind of material? Or is it that we are not entirely material at all? That is, what does it mean to say that something has a mind? In this course, we will focus on the mind-body problem, the question of how the mind is related to the body, but we will also address a number of related questions: Can computers think? How is it that our thoughts manage to be *about* other things? What is the nature of consciousness? What do psychology, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence have to tell us about the fundamental nature of the mind?

Required Texts:

(H) John Heil (2004). *Philosophy of mind: A contemporary introduction*. New York: Routledge.

(C) David Chalmers (2002). *Philosophy of mind: Classical and contemporary readings*. New York: Oxford UP.

Graduate Students: Maurice Schouten and H.L. de Jong, eds. (2007). *The matter of the mind*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Requirements: You will be held responsible for the material introduced in class as well as in the required readings; because of this, regular attendance is expected (although I won't actually take attendance). You should have read the relevant material and be prepared to discuss it. Minimize use of electronic devices. Cell phones must be silenced and put away. Laptops and the like are to be used for note-taking only and may not be used to take final exam without special prior permission. Classes will frequently introduce material not in the readings; you are responsible for finding out what transpired in any classes you miss. There will be a 6-8 page take-home exam (open books and notes but no collaboration with others), a 5-8 page paper, and an in-class final exam. For graduate students, the paper will be 10-12 pages, and we will meet every other week to discuss additional readings from *Matter of the Mind*. Grade distributions are as follows:

Undergrad:	take-home:	30	Graduate:	take-home:	30
	paper:	30		paper:	40
	final:	40		final:	30

I do strongly encourage you to talk to me outside of class, and not only before and after exams. My scheduled office hours are listed above, but I'm around most of the time and am happy to have you drop in or make an appointment.

Schedule of readings: The following should be read before the dates assigned. This schedule is subject to change.

Aug. 20	Introduction. Ch. 1 (H)
22–29	Dualism. Ch. 2–3 (H); Descartes: Meditation VI (C); Huxley: “On the hypothesis that animals are automata...” (C)
31–Sep. 7	Behaviorism. Ryle: “Descartes’ myth” (C); Ch. 5 (H)
10–12	Type Materialism. Smart: “Sensations and brain processes” (C); Ch. 6
14–19	Return of Dualism. Kripke: “Naming and necessity” (C); Hill: “Imaginability, conceivability, ...” (C)
21–28	Functionalism. Lewis: “Psychophysical and theoretical identifications” (C); Putnam: “The nature of mental states” (C); Ch. 7 (H)
Oct. 1–10	Representational Theory of Mind. Ch. 8 (H); Fodor: “Propositional attitudes” (C); Searle: “Can computers think?” (C)
12–17	Externalism. Putnam: “The meaning of <i>meaning</i> ” (C); Clark & Chalmers: “The extended mind” (C)
19–24	Mental Content. Dretske: “A recipe for thought” (C); Millikan: “Biosemantics” (C)
26–29	Instrumentalism. Ch. 11 (H)
31–Nov. 2	Eliminativism. Ch 12 (H); Churchland: “Eliminative materialism...” (C)
5–12	Consciousness. Ch. 9; Jackson: “Epiphenomenal qualia” (C); Tye: “Visual qualia...” (C); Chalmers: “Consciousness and its place in nature” (C)
14–19	Return of the Son of Dualism. Ch. 4, 13
26–30	Heil’s Summation. Ch. 14–15 (H)
Dec. 3	Catch-up, review.
OCT. 12	TAKE-HOME DUE (at or before beginning of class)
NOV. 19	PAPER DUE (at or before beginning of class)
DEC. 11	FINAL EXAM, 3PM