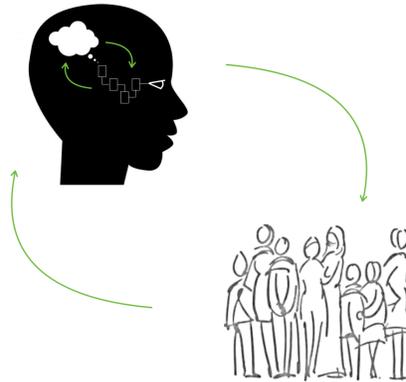


# Introduction to Philosophy of Mind

Philosophy 7, Summer 2017, A Session

GM Johnson, UCLA



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**Office:** Dodd 371

**Time:** TR 1:00-3:05pm

**Place:** TBA

## Course Overview:

This course introduces students to the philosophy of mind. In it, students will explore critical philosophical views concerning the relationship between the mind and the physical world, the nature of consciousness, as well as the mysteries of the unconscious mind.

The course will be divided into two units. In the first unit, we'll start with the most basic questions concerning mental states, namely, **what is a mind and in virtue of what does a being have one?** After broadly surveying and contrasting various philosophical views attempting to answer these questions, we'll home in on two fundamental features of the mind: **consciousness** and **cognition**. The detailed investigation of these two so-called 'marks of the mental' will occupy the remainder of the course. Regarding consciousness, we'll explore the mystery of how subjective experience arises from mental processes. Regarding cognition, we'll explore the information processing that allows us to reason about and navigate through the world around us. With time permitting, in the end, we'll explore the possibility of **unconscious cognition**—that is, that there might be a suite of mental operations of which subjects are not aware—and the implications this possibility has for the objectivity of perception and thought.

The course does not presuppose expertise in any particular field, and it introduces topics from a diverse point of view, pulling materials from philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychology, computer science, vision science, and cognitive science.

## Course Materials:

All required and supplementary materials (including readings, quizzes, and writing assignments) will be available through the course website. It is very important to check it regularly for updates.

There is no required textbook for the course. Those looking for an introductory guide to the topics covered in this class are encouraged to check out the following textbooks:

Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind, third edition*. 2011.

Chalmers, David. *Philosophy of Mind: classical and contemporary readings*. 2002.

Crane, Tim. *Elements of mind: an introduction to the philosophy of mind*. 2001.

## Course Policies:

Regarding classroom etiquette, the most important policy to keep in mind is to always abide by the **Principle of Charity (POC)**. Formally, the POC requires that you interpret a speaker's statements in the most persuasive way possible, so as to render those statements rational and worthy of philosophical engagement. Intuitively, this requires that you give everyone you interact with the benefit of the doubt. A student following the POC, for example, would not speak over their fellow student or be outright dismissive of the points they're intending to convey. This applies not only to your fellow students, but also those readings with which we'll be engaging. The primary aim of the POC is ensure a respectful, worthwhile, and collaborative intellectual environment. Thus, all students will be expected to always act in ways that further these aims.

Here are some additional course policies, the explanations for which are available on the course website and will be covered on the first day of class:

- No electronics (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) are permitted in class.
- Participation and attendance are mandatory.
- Late writing assignments will be penalized for each day they are late.
- Students are expected to follow section policies put forward by TAs.

## Course Requirements:

Final grades will be calculated on the basis of 4 assignment categories:

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) daily comprehension quizzes | (10% of your final grade) |
| (2) first paper, 1-2 pages      | (20% of your final grade) |
| (3) second paper, 4-5 pages     | (30% of your final grade) |
| (4) final paper, 5-6 pages      | (40% of your final grade) |

As you can see, this class requires a lot of writing. Philosophy is at its best when students are given the opportunity to engage deeply and critically with a topic—skills you will develop over time and with each assignment. The rising percentage distributions reward progress on these skills.

## Daily Quizzes:

Students will be expected to complete daily quizzes (starting with the second class). These quizzes are administered through the CCLE website. There are two each week, and they must be completed before class begins. Each quiz will consist of two multiple choice questions. One question is about the material covered in the previous lecture; you won't be able to answer this question on the reading alone. The other question is about the content of the reading for that day. Along with each reading will be study questions. The quiz question will come either from these study questions, or some other obvious aspect of the reading. The purpose of the quiz questions is to test comprehension; they should be easy so long as you actually did the reading and attended class (provided you paid attention with each).

## Written Assignments:

Prompts and details for written assignments will be made available at least one and a half weeks before the assignment is due. All written assignments will be graded anonymously by TAs.

## Tentative Schedule:

This schedule might change—always consult the course website for updates

### Week One

Tues., June 20th: Introduction and Overview  
no reading required - please explore course website

Thurs., June 22nd: Dualism vs Naturalism - Round I  
1) Descartes - "On the Distinction Between Mind and Body"  
2) Jaegwon Kim - "Princess Elisabeth Against Descartes"

### Week Two

Tues., June 27th: Dualism vs Naturalism - Round II  
1) Jaegwon Kim - "Physical Causal Closure and the Exclusion Argument"  
2) Tim Crane - "Body"

Thurs., June 29th: Alternatives to Dualism  
1) Hillary Putnam - "Brains and Behavior"  
2) U.T. Place - "Is Consciousness a Brain Process"  
3) J.J.C. Smart - "Sensations and Brain Processes"  
3) Jerry Fodor - "What is Functionalism?"

**Fri., June 30th: PAPER ONE DUE**

### Week Three

Tues., July 4th: Independence Day

no class

Thurs., July 6th: Consciousness

- 1) Zoe Drayson - "The philosophy of phenomenal consciousness: An introduction"
- 2) Daniel Dennet - "A Visit to the Phenomenological Garden"
- 3) Thomas Nagel - "What is it like to be a bat?"

Week Four

Tues., July 11th: The Puzzle of Consciousness

- 1) Nagasawa and Stolijar - "Introduction to *There's Something About Mary*"
- 2) David Chalmers - "The puzzle of conscious experience"
- 3) Frank Jackson - "Epiphenomenal Qualia"

Thurs., July 13th: Cognition and Representation

- 1) Tim Crane - "The Puzzle of Representation"
- 2) John Pearce - "Navigation"
- 3) Tim Crane - "The Mechanisms of Thought"

**Fri., July 14th: PAPER TWO DUE**

Week Five

Tues., July 18th: Intentionality and Mental Content

- 1) Tim Crane - "The Mechanical Mind"
- 2) Ruth Millikan - "Teleological Theories of Mental Content"

Thurs., July 20th: Unconscious Perception and Implicit Bias

- 1) John Searle - "The Unconscious and the Explanation of Behavior"
- 2) Beatrice de Gelder - "Uncanny Sight in the Blind"
- 3) Banaji and Greenwald - "Blindspot"

Week Six

Tues., July 25th: Perception and Presupposition

- 1) Fiona Macpherson - "Cognitive Penetration of Color Experience"
- 2) Levin and Banaji - "Distortions in the Perceived Lightness of Faces"
- 3) Eberhardt et al. - "Seeing Black: race, crime, and visual processing"

Thurs., July 27th: Wrapping up

- 1) Jennifer Saul - "Skepticism and Implicit Bias"
- 2) Correll et al. - "The Police Officer's Dilemma"

**Fri. July 28th: PAPER THREE DUE**

### **Academic Misconduct:**

Students are expected to know and to follow the university's guidelines for academic honesty. Academic misconduct can occur in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to) cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. When in doubt about whether some academic practice is acceptable, ask your TA or the instructor for assistance. Always err on the side of avoiding misconduct. **Any suspected violation of university policy regarding academic conduct will be reported directly to the Office of the Dean of**

**Students.** (This is a course policy, and it is not subject to revision by your TA.) In other words, **there are no exceptions.**

### **Academic Accommodation:**

Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) [formerly the Office for Students with Disabilities or OSD] at (310)825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations.

### **University Resources:**

For more information, check out the following resources:

Office of the Dean of Students:

<http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity>

Student Conduct Code:

[http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Portals/16/Documents/UCLACodeOfConduct\\_Rev030416.pdf](http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Portals/16/Documents/UCLACodeOfConduct_Rev030416.pdf)

Student Guide to Academic Integrity:

<https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/portals/16/documents/studentguide.pdf>

UCLA Writing Programs:

<http://wp.ucla.edu/>

Center for Accessible Education (CAE):

[www.cae.ucla.edu](http://www.cae.ucla.edu)