

Studies in Philosophy of Mind:

Dualism, Physicalism, and Panpsychism

Philosophy 535 — Spring Term 2008 – Purdue University

Instructor: Daniel Kelly

1. Course Description

The main goals of this course are to explore the nature of the mind and to acquaint students with foundational issues and central debates in contemporary philosophy of mind. We will consider the relationship between the mind and the body, and the mental to the physical more generally. We'll ask, and look at some candidate answers to, questions like "What is a mind, and how does one work? How are the beliefs, desires, and other mental states of a mind related to the biology and chemistry of a body? What is distinctive about intentional mental states, and how do they come to have their particular contents? What is the nature of consciousness? Could other animals, aliens, or machines have mind, or be conscious? How could we ever know? What is distinctive about the mental terms, like "belief" and "consciousness," that are required to even pose these questions?"

In the first half of the course, we will focus on traditional materialist solutions to the mind body problem, the resources they employ, and the arguments against them. In the second half of the course, we will turn our attention to contemporary debates about the nature of consciousness, with a specific eye towards the recent resurgence of panpsychism.

2. Class Meetings

Class meets Tuesday/Thursday, 9:00-10:15am, in Room 1248 of Beering Hall.

3. Office Hours and Contact Information

Office: 7126 Beering Hall

Office phone: 765-494-4290 (4-4290)

Email: drkelly@purdue.edu

Fall Term Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-4:00pm, or by appointment.

4. Course Requirements, Policies, and Grading

Grades on papers and exams will be given on the standard 0-100 point grading scale:

100-90: A
89-87: B+
86-80: B
79-77: C+
76-70: C
69-60: D
59-0: F

Students will write three 5-7 page papers, in which they will be expected to make an argument. Each student will also give a 30 minute presentation at some point during the semester. Students should set up a time to meet with me before they give their presentation. Final grades will be determined thus:

Each Paper	30%
Presentation and Class Participation	10%

EMAILED AND ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Papers not given to me by the end of class (10:15pm) the day they are due are LATE. For each day late, 7 points will be deducted.

There will be zero tolerance for plagiarism in this course. Plagiarized papers will receive a 0, the student will automatically fail the course, and their name will be handed given to the university authorities. For more on the Purdue University policy on plagiarism, see the following website:

http://www.purdue.edu/univregs/pages/stu_conduct/stu_regulations.html

Classes will be a mix of lecture and discussion focused on the topics raised by the readings. Students are encouraged to ask questions – this is usually the best way to understand philosophy. There is no mandatory attendance policy for this class, but lecture notes will not be posted online.

Class participation: I realize that not everyone is equally outgoing or talkative in class. While participation in class discussion almost always helps in learning philosophy and I highly encourage it, I do not penalize students for not speaking up – indeed, there is not even a formal attendance requirement for this course. However, a consistent record of participation and attendance will always help a student’s final grade if it is on the borderline at the end of the semester. On the other hand, while I do not penalize for lack of participation, students who have not been present and engaged throughout the semester are much less likely to get the benefit of the doubt in similar borderline cases.

5. Texts

The two required texts *The Philosophy of Mind: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by David Chalmers and *Consciousness and Its Place in Nature: Does Physicalism Entail Panpsychism?* by Galen Strawson. Both are (or should be) available at the bookstore, and can be easily bought online at a number of places, including amazon.com, though some sites are probably cheaper than others. Any additional required readings will be distributed via email or put on reserve.

An optional text is *The Mind’s Eye*, edited by Douglas Hofstadter and Daniel Dennett. It is also easily available at amazon.com, but the full text (with many typos, alas) can be found here:

<http://themindi.blogspot.com/>

This book is a collection of philosophically oriented pieces, including papers, dialogues, and short stories. After each one, the editors draw out and comment upon the philosophically relevant themes in the piece. It is actually a sort of fun read.

A word on using external (i.e. not required) sources in your papers: that is fine, as long as they are to the point, and are properly cited. When in doubt, ***cite your sources!*** It is the best way to avoid being accused of plagiarism.

Wikipedia can be valuable for getting a very broad grasp of positions and debates, but when it gets into details, especially on philosophic topics, it is very often horrible – sketchy, convoluted, misinformed, and often simply wrong. If you wish to consult online resources, I suggest you use some of the other, much better sites. Most prominent is the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, but others are useful as well:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://plato.stanford.edu/>
The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>
Episteme Links <http://www.epistemelinks.com/Main/MainEncy.aspx>

6. Course Website

Information and comments will often be posted on the website, which can be reached via my homepage:

<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~drkelly/>

7. Topics and Readings

Here is a tentative list of topics and readings. We'll pick and choose as we go, depending on how fast we are going, and what catches our collective imagination. Specific readings and dates will be announced in class, on the webpage and/or over the class email list. Since reminders and other information will be distributed of the email list, *make sure you check the website and your Purdue account on a fairly regular basis.*

Star (*) indicates that the reading will be available on the course website. All others have accompanying websites or can be found in one of the two textbooks.

Week 1: Jan 7th

Introduction and Overview

- Lycan “The Mind-Body Problem”*

Dualism

- René Descartes: excerpts from *The Meditations*
- Thomas Huxley: ‘On the Hypothesis that Animals are Automata, and Its History’
- Raymond Smullyan: ‘An Unfortunate Dualist’

Week 2: Jan 14th

Behaviorism

- Gilbert Ryle: ‘Descartes’ Myth’
- Rudolph Carnap: excerpt from ‘Psychology in Physical Language’
- Hilary Putnam: ‘Brains and Behavior’

Week 3: Jan 21st

Type Identity Theory

- U.T. Place, ‘Is Consciousness a Brain Process’
- J.J.C. Smart, ‘Sensations and Brain Processes’
- H. Feigl, ‘The “Mental” and the “Physical”’

Week 4: Jan 28th

Functionalism

- Hilary Putnam, ‘The Nature of Mental States’
- Janet Levin, ‘Functionalism’: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/functionalism/>

Week 5: Feb 4th

Problems with Functionalism

- Ned Block, 'Troubles with Functionalism'
- John R. Searle, 'Minds, Brains and Programs'
 - **First Paper Due Feb 7th**

Week 6: Feb 11th

Intentionality

- Franz Brentano, "The Distinction between Mental and Physical Phenomena"
- Hilary Putnam, 'The Meaning of Meaning'
- Mason, Sripada & Stich, 'The Philosophy of Psychology' pages 31-39*

Week 7, 8, and 9: Feb 18st - March 6th

Consciousness

- The Phenomenon
 - Ned Block, 'Concepts of Consciousness'
 - Daniel Dennett, 'Quining Qualia'
- The Arguments
 - Thomas Nagel, 'What Is It Like to Be a Bat?'
 - Frank Jackson: 'What Mary Didn't Know'
 - Joseph Levine, 'Materialism and Qualia: The Explanatory Gap'
 - Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*, (excerpt)
 - Colin McGinn, 'Can We Solve The Mind Body Problem?'
- Taking Stock
 - Chalmers, 'Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness':
<http://consc.net/papers/facing.html>
 - Chalmers, 'Consciousness and Its Place in Nature'

Spring Break: No Class March 10-14

Week 10: March 17th

Panpsychism

- William Seager, 'Panpsychism': <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/panpsychism/>
- Galen Strawson, 'Realistic Monism: Why Physicalism Entails Panpsychism'
 - **Second Paper Due March 20th**

Week 11: March 24th

Supervenience and Emergence

- Jaegwon Kim, 'Multiple Realization and the Metaphysics of Reduction'
- Terence Horgan, 'From Supervenience to Superdupervenience: Meeting the Demands of a Physical World'
- Brian McLaughlin, 'The Rise and Fall of British Emergentism'*

Week 12, 13, 14: March 31st - April 17th

Responses to Strawson

- In *Consciousness and Its Place in Nature: Does Physicalism Entail Panpsychism?*

Week 15: April 21st

Strawson Strikes Back

- 'Panpsychism? Reply to Commentators with a Celebration of Descartes'
 - **Third Paper Due April 24th**