

PHL 325: Philosophy of Mind
Fall 2019

Instructor: Matthew Katz
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Office: Anspach 242
Office Hours: W 10:30-12:00,
1:00-2:30, and by appt.

Course Description: This course will examine some of the central philosophical questions about the relationship between the mind and body, about personal identity, and about free will. For example, are thoughts and feelings just physical states of the brain? Are they states of a non-physical substance? Or perhaps they don't really exist at all? Is it possible for a person to survive the destruction of her body and brain? Do we have free will, or are our actions caused by the interactions of the physical world, or by our genes, or by our upbringing? Readings will be both historical and contemporary. Requirements will include regular short reading responses and four take-home exams.

Required Texts:

1. Ravenscroft. *Philosophy of Mind*.
2. Perry. *A Dialogue on Personal Identity*.
3. Kane. *Free Will*.
4. Other readings will be posted to Blackboard.

Requirements:

1. Reading responses: 15%
2. Exams 1, 2, 3: 20% each
3. Final exam: 25%

Academic Integrity: Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with CMU's Policy on Academic Integrity, which can be found at: http://academicsenate.cmich.edu/NonCad/ACADEMIC_INTEGRITY_POLICY.pdf.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: CMU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities, or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the office of Student Disability Services (Park Library 120, telephone 989-774-3018, TDD #2568), and then contact the professor as soon as possible.

Electronics: You are welcome to take notes on a laptop or tablet, but if you choose to do so you must sit in the very back row of the classroom. Please refrain from using cell phones during class.

Tentative Schedule:

I. The Mind–Body Problem

Date:	Reading:
1/8	• Introduction (no reading)
1/10	• Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> (selections) ; Ravenscroft, pp. 1–15
1/15	• Arnauld, “Objection to Descartes” ; Ravenscroft, pp. 16–18
1/17	• Ravenscroft pp. 18–23
1/22	• Ryle, “Descartes’ Myth” ; Ravenscroft pp.25–33
1/24	• Smart, “Sensations and Brain Processes” ; Ravenscroft pp. 39–49
1/29	• Putnam, “Brains and Behavior” ; Ravenscroft pp. 50–62
1/31	• Turing, “Computing, Machinery, and Intelligence” ; Ravenscroft pp. 81–94
2/5	• Churchland, “Eliminative Materialism . . .” ; Ravenscroft pp. 64–72
2/7	• REVIEW

II. Content, Causation, and Consciousness

Date:	Reading:
2/12	• Putnam, <i>Reason, Truth, and History</i> , (selections). ; Ravenscroft, pp. 125-135
2/14	• Ravenscroft, pp. 135-143
2/19	• Ravenscroft, pp. 144–155
2/21	• Nagel, “ What It’s Like to be a Bat” ; Ravenscroft, pp. 159–171
2/26	• Jackson, “What Mary Didn’t Know” ; Ravenscroft, pp.171–187
2/28	• Chalmers, “Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness”
3/12	• REVIEW

III. What is a Person?

Date:	Reading:
3/14	• Perry, “First night”
3/19	• Perry, “Second night”
3/21	• Perry, “Third night”
3/26	• Williams, “The Self and the Future”
3/28	• Parfit, “Personal Identity”
4/2	• Nagel, “Brain Bisection and the Unity of Consciousness”
4/4	• REVIEW

III. Are we Free?

Date:	Reading:
4/9	• Kane, ch. 1
4/11	• Kane, ch. 2
4/16	• Kane, ch. 3
4/18	• Kane, ch. 4
4/23	• Kane, ch. 5
4/25	• REVIEW