

Philosophy of Mind, 70.374 – Winter term 2011

Brandon University

Lectures: Tues 11:40-12:30; Thrs 11:40-1:30, Clark hall 317

Instructor: Dr. Derek H. Brown

Contact information: brownnd@brandonu.ca, 727-9765

Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 or by appointment, Clark Hall 331

This course introduces students to theories of the mind and of the mind-body relation. Focus will be on 20th century theories, including behaviourism, functionalism and cognitive science. We will discuss whether or not the mind is a distinct substance from the body, and, if not, whether or not it can be reduced to the body. The importance of *perception* and of *language* for the theory of mind will be emphasized. Readings will be a combination of material from an introductory text and recent influential contributions on relevant topics. The Kim text will provide students with general introductions to each topic, as well as detailed analyses of various issues; the Chalmers collection contains recent, good articles that struggle with a variety of problems in the field.

Texts: Kim, J. (2006). *Philosophy of Mind, 2nd ed.* Westview Press.

Chalmers, D. (2002). *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings.* Oxford University Press.

*Additional required material may be made available to students throughout the course.

Evaluation

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| Test 1 (Thursday, Feb 10) | 15% |
| Test 2 (Tuesday, March 22) | 15% |
| Presentation; outline; discussion questions (dates TBA) | 15+8+2 = 25% |
| Essay 1 – 5 pp. (due Thursday March 3) | 15% |
| Essay 2 – 10-15 pp., on presentation topic (due Tuesday, April 12) | 25% |
| Class Participation | 5% |

- *Presentation.* Students will be responsible to present an article from the Chalmers collection chosen in consultation with the Instructor. I will provide a sample. Students will also provide a *pre-presentation outline* the class *before* which they are scheduled to present. It will outline the article to be presented, emphasizing its main arguments, and critically assess some part of it. I will provide a sample.

Rough Course Schedule

| <i>Time</i> | <i>Topics</i> | <i>Readings</i> |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Week 1: | Many minds, and all are physical (Introduction) | Kim, Chapter 1. |
| Week 2: | My body's my ship, for now (Dualism) | Kim, Chapter 2; Chalmers, reading 5. |
| Week 3: | You are how you act (Behaviourism) | Kim, Chapter 3. |
| Week 4: | It's all about the meat. (Mind-brain Identity theory) | Kim, Chapter 4. |
| Week 5: | The mind as computer 1 (Functionalism 1) | Kim, Chapter 5. |
| Week 6: | The mind as computer 2 (Functionalism 2) | Kim, Chapter 6; Chalmers, reading 63. |
| Week 7: | Does your mind move you? (Mental Causation) | Kim, Chapter 7. |
| Week 8: | I am awake (Consciousness) | Kim, Chapter 8. |
| Week 9: | Thoughts ain't in the head (Content and the Extended Mind) | Kim, Chapter 9; Chalmers, reading 59. |
| Week 10: | Break it down now! (Reduction) | Kim, Chapter 10. |
| Week 11: | Living without colour (Qualities & the knowledge argument) | Chalmers, readings 27&28. |
| Week 12: | You're missing something (The explanatory gap) | Chalmers, readings 35&38. |

Students are specifically referred to the policy on academic integrity Section 4.2.2 of the General Calendar. Violations of this policy, including all forms of plagiarism, will not be tolerated.