Philosophy of Mind
PHIL/PNP 315

General business
Course times, location: Tues and Thurs 1:00 - 2:30, Duncker 101
Instructor, contact: Elizbeth Schechter, eschech@wustl.edu
Office hours, location: Tues 3:00 – 5:00, and by appt, Wilson 108
T.A., contact: Mike Dacey, mwdacey@wustl.edu
Office hours, location: Mon 1:00 – 2:00, Thurs 2:30 – 3:30, and by appt, Wilson 116
Course website: on Telesis

Course description
An introduction to contemporary debates in the philosophy of mind, focusing on questions such as the following: What is a mind? Is the mind just the brain? Or are minds products of brains? Could an artificial device—a computer or a robot—have a mind? How can mental events have physical consequences? Although no prior familiarity with the subject matter is assumed, the material is challenging. Students who have not previously taken a philosophy course need permission of the instructor.

Texts and Readings
There are two required texts for the course:
*Some required readings (marked “online”) will be posted on Telesis.*

Evaluation
Sources of points: There are three exams in this class, including the final exam. Each of the first two exams is worth 27.5% of your grade. The final exam is worth 40% of your grade. Quizzes are worth 5% of your grade.

Final exam: About 2/3 of the final exam will test material covered since the 2nd exam. The remaining 1/3 of the final exam will cover material from the course as a whole.

Exam structure and content: Each exam, including the final exam, will have an in-class and a take-home portion. The in-class portion of the exam will consist of short-answer questions. The take-home portion will be a short critical essay (of about 500-750 words), which you should type. For the first two exams, you will bring your completed take-home essay with you to the in-class portion of the exam and submit the in-class and the take-home portion together. ***The take-home portion for the FINAL exam will be due several days before the in-class portion of the exam, by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 16th.***
(You will leave it in the Instructor’s or the T.A.’s mailbox in the Philosophy Department.)

Question/s for the take-home, essay portion of the exam will be provided to you only 24-48 hours before the essays are due. This serves both to discourage students from treating this take-home essay as a usual paper and to encourage students to begin studying for the in-class portion of the exam early.

Quizzes: On some days there will be an (unannounced) quiz on the assigned reading for that day. Quizzes are designed to be answerable so long as you have done the required reading, even if there is much that you did not understand.

Deadlines and attendance
Exams: Your overall life schedule, during the semester, should be arranged, as much as possible, around your exam schedule (for all your courses). Exams are important, and other events in your life should be arranged to accommodate your exams, rather than vice versa. If a conflict is unavoidable, contact the instructor as early as possible to arrange for an alternative test date.

**Please note that you are required to submit a hard copy of the take-home (essay) portion of each exam.**
If you do not submit a paper copy of your essay when it is due, you will be marked as if you had simply failed to complete the essay portion of that exam.

Quizzes cannot be made up.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken every day (by sign-in sheet), but only for statistical purposes; your grader will not factor it into your grade.

**Promptness:** Arrive at 1:00 so that you have time to ready your materials and review your notes from previous classes. *Please do not enter the classroom after 1:10 p.m.*

**Other policies**

**Dishonesty:** Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be swiftly reported to the Academic Integrity Office. Take-home essays incorporating plagiarized material will awarded a grade of zero.

**Pass-Fail:** Students taking the course *Pass-Fail* must earn at least a C- to obtain a passing grade.

**Incompletes:** Incompletes will be awarded only under exceptional circumstances and, of course, *only* when arrangements are made prior to the last class.

**Auditors:** Auditors will be credited with auditing only if they miss no more than five class meetings.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

This information is all contained below in the detailed schedule but has been consolidated here for your attention.

**Tuesday 4 October:** First exam. Take-home essay due in class along with in-class short-answer portion of exam.

**Tuesday 8 November:** Second exam. Take-home essay due in class along with in-class short-answer portion of exam.

**Friday 16 December:** Take-home essay portion of final exam due to Philosophy Department by 5 p.m.

**Tuesday 20 December:** In-class short-answer portion of final exam, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Duncker 101.

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**Schedule of Readings and Discussions**

Important notes:

1. All readings are to be completed before class on the date under which they are listed (unless instructor gives word to the contrary).

2. *Unless otherwise noted,* all listed readings are required in their entirety. (Some exceptions are noted, though, so watch out for them.)

3. References to "online" readings are to readings that can be found on Telesis. References to chapters in *Heil* are to chapters in Heil's 2004 *Philosophy of Mind: A Contemporary Introduction*. Chapter references to other authors are to chapters in Heil’s 2005 *Philosophy of Mind: A Guide and Anthology*.

4. If there are to be any changes to the schedule of readings or to the readings themselves you will be notified by email. Please make sure you are receiving these emails and that you check your account daily.

**Tuesday 30 August**

Day One: Course Introduction

Heil Chapter 1

**Thursday 1 September**

Day Two: Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind
Required Readings:
Plato, “Souls and bodies”, Ch. 1.

Tuesday 6 September
Day Three: Dualism
Heil Chapter 2
Descartes, “Minds and bodies as distinct substances”, Ch. 2. [Final two sections—“Objections and replies” and “Descartes’s reply”—are optional.]

Thursday 8 September
Day Four: Dualism
Heil Chapter 3

Tuesday 13 September
Day Five: Behaviorism
Heil Chapter 5
Hempel, “The logical analysis of psychology”, Ch. 5.

Thursday 15 September
Day Six: Behaviorism
Putnam, “Brains and behavior”, Ch. 6.

Tuesday 20 September
Day Seven: Catch-up/Discussion

Thursday 22 September
Day Eight: Identity Theory
Heil Chapter 6
Smart, “Sensations and brain processes”, Ch. 8.

Tuesday 27 September
Day Nine: Catch-up/Discussion
Kripke, “Identity and necessity”, Ch. 9.

Thursday 29 September
Day Ten: Catch-up/Discussion

Tuesday 4 October
Day Eleven: Exam

Thursday 6 October
Day Twelve: Identity Theory
Kripke, “Identity and necessity”, Ch. 9.

Tuesday 11 October
Day Thirteen: Functionalism
Heil Chapter 7
Putnam, “Psychological predicates”, Ch. 11. [Section 1 is optional.]

Thursday 13 October
Day Fourteen: Functionalism
Fodor, “The mind-body problem”, Ch. 12.
Tuesday 18 October
Day Fifteen: Functionalism and intentionality
Heil Chapter 8: read only Sections 8.1-8.5.
Searle, “Minds, brains, and programs”, Ch. 15.

Thursday 20 October
Day Sixteen: Catch-up/Discussion

Tuesday 25 October
Day Seventeen: Functionalism and intentionality
Dretske, “A recipe for thought”, online.

Thursday 27 October
Day Eighteen: Reductionism and scientific psychology
Heil Chapter 8: read Sections 8.6-8.9.
Fodor, “The special sciences”, online.

Tuesday 1 November
Day Nineteen: Reductionism and scientific psychology
Optional: Kim, “Multiple realization and the metaphysics of reduction”, Ch. 42.

Thursday 3 November
Day Twenty: Catch-up/Discussion

Tuesday 8 November
Day Twenty-one: Exam

Thursday 10 November
Day Twenty-two: Reductionism and folk psychology
Nagel, “Brain bisection and the unity of consciousness”, online.

Tuesday 15 November
Day Twenty-three: Eliminativism
Heil, Chapter 12
Churchland, “Eliminative materialism and the propositional attitudes”, Ch. 23.

Thursday 17 November
Day Twenty-four: Interpretationalism/Instrumentalism
Heil Chapter 11
Optional: Heil Chapter 10
Dennett, “Three kinds of intentional psychology”, Ch. 19

Tuesday 22 November
Day Twenty-Five: Catch-up/Discussion

Tuesday 29 November
Day Twenty-Six: Consciousness
Jackson, “Epiphenomenal qualia”, online.
Nagel, “What is it like to be a bat?”, Ch. 29.

Thursday 1 December
Day Twenty-Seven: Consciousness
Levine, “Materialism and qualia: The explanatory gap”, Ch. 44.

Tuesday 6 December
Day Twenty-Eight: Consciousness
Hardcastle, “The why of consciousness: A non-issue for materialists”, Ch. 46.

Thursday 8 December
Day Twenty-Nine: Catch-up/Discussion

Tuesday 13 December
Day Thirty: Catch-up/Discussion

Friday 16 December
*** “Take-home” portion (essay) for final exam due (to Instructor’s or T.A.’s mailbox, Philosophy Department) on Friday 16 December, 4:45 p.m. ***

Tuesday 20 December
Final exam
1:00 - 3:00, Duncker 101