PHI 202 Philosophy of Mind
Spring Semester 2016-17, University of Sheffield

Lecturer
Dr Luca Barlassina (email: l.barlassina@sheffield.ac.uk)

Lectures
Thursday 12-1, HRI LT3
Thursday 1-2, HRI LT3

Seminars (starting from week 3)
Thursday 4-5, JB-116
Thursday 5-6, JB-116

Office hours
Monday 3-4, Thursday 3-4, (or by appointment)
Philosophy Department, Room C09, 45 Victoria Street

Course Description
Right now, you are having a visual experience of this syllabus. Surprisingly enough, this simple fact is sufficient to generate a number of philosophical perplexities. To begin with, what is the nature of your visual experience? Without any doubt, your visual experience is somewhat related to what is going on in your brain. But what is the nature of this relationship? For example, is your visual experience identical to a state of your brain? Secondly, how can your visual experience be an experience of this syllabus? More in general, how can your mind represent the world to be a certain way? Finally, your visual experience has phenomenal character, that is, there is something it is like for you to have it, and this phenomenal character is different from what it is like for you to see a red tomato or to hear the sound of a trumpet. But how can your soggy, grey brain
can give rise to the phenomenal character of your experiences? More generally, what is the place of subjective experiences in an objective, physical world? These are among the fundamental problems in the philosophy of mind. In this course, we will discuss them and many other fascinating philosophical puzzles about the mind.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, you will have acquired:

- a solid knowledge of some of the fundamental problems of contemporary philosophy of mind
- a clear understanding of the main positions in the philosophy of mind and their development in the 20th century
- the ability to read and evaluate complex philosophical texts about the mind
- the ability to give clear and well-structured philosophical arguments about the mind, both in oral and written form
- the ability to relate problems in philosophy of mind with other philosophical and scientific problems

**Schedule**

The course is divided into 2 units. In the first (weeks 1-6), we will focus on the mind-body problem, that is, the problem of how mental phenomena are related to physical phenomena; in the second unit (weeks 7-10), we will consider how the mind can represent the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>LECTURES</th>
<th>SEMINARS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Intro + Dualism</td>
<td><em>No seminar</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Behaviourism</td>
<td><em>No seminar</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Identity theory</td>
<td>Dualism and behaviourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Functionalism</td>
<td>Identity theory and functionalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Consciousness I</td>
<td><em>How to write a philosophy paper</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Consciousness II</td>
<td>Consciousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Language of Thought</td>
<td>The Language of Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Folk psychology</td>
<td>Folk psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mental content</td>
<td>Mental content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Consciousness and content</td>
<td>Consciousness and content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wrap up</td>
<td><em>No seminar</em></td>
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Readings
There will be two lectures each week. For each week, there will be one or more core readings. These core readings are compulsory: you are required to read them before the lectures. These core readings are also the readings that we will discuss in the seminars. All core readings will be available on the MOLE course website.

In addition to these core readings, I will also give you a list of further readings, which constitute a valuable starting point for essay writing. At the end of each week, I will also upload the PowerPoint presentations I used in class. Importantly, these presentations are not a substitute for either the readings or the lectures.


Week 1, 9th Feb.: Intro + Cartesian Dualism

- Core readings:

- Further readings:

Week 2, 16th Feb.: Behaviourism

- Core readings:

- Further readings:

Week 3, 23rd Feb: The identity theory

- Core readings:

- Further readings:


Week 4, 2nd Mar.: Functionalism

- Core readings:

- Further readings:
Week 5, 9th Mar.: Consciousness I: The Knowledge Argument

- Core readings:

- Further readings:

Week 6, 16th Mar.: Consciousness II: Alternatives to physicalism

- Core readings:

- Further readings:

Week 7, 23rd Mar: The Language of Thought

- Core readings:

- Further readings:

**Week 8, 30th Mar: Folk psychology**

- Core readings:

- Further readings:

**EASTER VACATION [3 Weeks]**
**Week 9, 27\textsuperscript{th} Apr: Mental content**

- Core readings:

- Further readings:

**Week 10, 4\textsuperscript{th} May: Consciousness and Content**

- Core readings:

- Further readings:

Week 11, 10th May: Wrap up (NO READINGS)
Seminar Readings

Seminar 1, 23rd Feb.: Dualism and behaviourism

Seminar 2, 2nd Mar.: Identity theory and functionalism

Seminar 3, 9th Mar.: How to write a philosophy paper (NO READINGS)

Seminar 4, 16th Mar.: Consciousness

Seminar 5, 23rd Apr.: The Language of Thought

Seminar 6, 30th Apr.: Folk psychology

Seminar 7, 27th Apr.: Mental content

Seminar 8, 4th May: Consciousness and content
Assessment
Assessment for this course will consist of two essays (25% each) and a final exam (50%). The exam’s questions will be pre-released.

The essays must be between 1500 and 2000 words each. The essay must be submitted electronically and in paper form. Electronic submission is done through MOLE. The paper copy has to be submitted by putting it in the Essay Deposit Box of the Department of Philosophy (45 Victoria Street). The deadline for the first essay is noon, Tuesday 14th March 2017. The deadline for the second essay is noon, Wednesday 17th May 2017. Late submissions will be penalized.

The final exam will last 2 hours and you will be required to write two essays.

Feedback
Feedback comes in many forms, for example: comments on a draft of a paper, answers to questions in lectures, discussions we have during seminars, and chats during office hours. In particular, during this module each student:

1. Will have the opportunity to discuss with me her/his plans for the essay and the exam (during office hours).
2. Will receive written feedback on her/his essay.
3. Will have the opportunity to discuss with me her/his essay feedback (during office hours).
4. Will have the opportunity to discuss with me her/his understanding of the material and her/his progress (during office hours).
5. Will have the opportunity to discuss with me her/his exam and exam grade. (by appointment)
6. We will also have a group draft-workshop during one of the seminars in which I will provide you with essay writing advice

It is your job to make the best use of these feedback opportunities.

Plagiarism
The following are serious academic offences and may result in serious penalties:

(1) Plagiarism: the stealing of ideas or work of another person. It may take the form of cutting and pasting, taking or closely paraphrasing ideas and passages from books, articles, internet sites, etc. and submitting them for assessment without
appropriate acknowledgement. It may also take the form of buying or commissioning either the whole assignment or part of it.

(2) **Self-plagiarism**: resubmitting previously submitted work (without proper acknowledgement). This may take the form of copying either the whole assignment or part of it.

(3) **Collusion**: two or more people work together to produce a piece of work, all or part of which is then submitted by each of them as their own individual work. Collusion does not occur where students involved in group work are encouraged to work together to produce a single piece of work as part of the assessment process.