

Florida International University
Department of Philosophy

PHI 3320 (1) Philosophy of Mind

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GL166 (9:30-10:50)

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Course Description

Philosophy of mind seeks to understand the nature of mind. It asks such questions as: What is the mind's relationship to the rest of the world? Is it physical or non-physical? What happens to my mind when I die? What is a belief? An emotion? A sensation? What happens to my personal identity when I fall asleep, or fundamentally change my values, or forget central aspects of my history? Do we really make free and responsible choices, or are we just enslaved by our biology and socialization?

We will begin by surveying some important positions on the Mind-Body Problem including Dualism, Behaviorism, Identity Theory, Eliminativism and Functionalism. Other issues to be discussed include: our knowledge of the minds of other people and animals, the nature of intentionality or representation, consciousness, and the possibility of machine-minds.

It is highly recommended that students are familiar with philosophical methods of analysis and argumentation. I will assume that you have prior experience writing philosophical papers, reading philosophical texts, analyzing and criticizing philosophical arguments, and so on. It is advisable to read particularly difficult material twice, once before class discussion, and once afterwards. In addition, everyone will be expected to regularly contribute to class discussion.

My aim is to help you develop an appreciation for some central philosophical problems concerning the nature of mental phenomena. We will explore the nature of mind and its place in nature.

Required Texts

1. Graham, G. (1998). *Philosophy of Mind: An introduction* (2nd Edition). Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd.
2. Cooney, B. (2000). *The Place of Mind*. Wadsworth.

(N.B. Further readings will be made available on Blackboard.)

Evaluation

- Participation: includes both being present for the whole class and contributing to class discussion.
- Tests: these will be held on **October 3, November 7, and December 5.**
- Critical Essay: The purpose of the essay is for you to develop a considered position about some issue raised in the course and to strengthen critical skills of analysis and clear writing. Due date: **Nov. 26** (in class).

Grading

Attendance and participation: 10%; essay: 30%; tests: 20% each.

Some remarks on course requirements:

- Paper: This should be between 8-10 pages (typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins). Further instructions and topics will be distributed in class. Late papers will be substantially penalized.
- Tests will consist of a mixture of short-answer style questions

Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1. Aug. 27/29	Introduction	Graham, Ch.1; Cooney pp.1-14	
2. Sept. 3/5	Dualism I	Descartes (Cooney: 13-28); Graham, pp.151-2	
3. Sept. 10/12	Dualism II	Graham, Ch.2; Locke (Cooney 29, pp.428-33); Ayer (Blackboard)	
4. Sept. 17/19	Behaviorism	Graham, pp.42-47; Ryle (Cooney 2: pp.31-41); Smullyan	
5. Sept. 24/26	Other Minds	Graham, pp.47-64; Malcolm (Cooney: 3)	
5. Oct. 1/3	Identity Theory	Graham, sections 8.1 & 8.2 (pp.145-52); Smart (Cooney: 6)	First Test: Oct. 3
6. Oct. 8/10	Eliminativism & Instrumentalism	Churchland (Cooney: 9); Dennett (Cooney 20); Graham: 5.5 (pp.103-8)	
7. Oct. 15/17	Functionalism	Fodor (Cooney:11), Graham, section 5.2 (pp.89-93); Block (Blackboard)	
8. Oct. 22/24	Artificial Intelligence	Graham: sections 5.1, 3, 4, & 6; Searle (Cooney: 18)	
9. Oct. 29/31	Intentionality	Graham: 8.3-4 (pp.152-62), Dretske (Cooney: 21)	

10. Nov. 5/7	Freewill	Graham, Ch.9; Flanagan (Blackboard)	Second Test: Nov. 7
11. Nov. 12/14	Consciousness: The explanatory gap	Graham, ch.10; Nagel (Cooney: 22)	
12. Nov. 19	Consciousness: The Knowledge argument	Jackson (Cooney: 24); Dennett "What RoboMary knows" (Blackboard)	
13. Nov. 21/26	Consciousness: The epiphenomenalist suspicion	Graham, ch.11, Campbell (Cooney: 23); Jackson (Cooney: 24)	Paper: Nov. 26 No class Nov. 28
14. Dec. 3/5	Personhood	Hume (Cooney: 30); Parfit (Cooney 31)	Third Test: Dec. 5

Nota Bene

1. Readings not in the assigned texts will be posted on Blackboard.
2. There will be no alternate test dates, or extra-credit assignments (e.g. a vacation during the semester is ill-advised). A missed test that was not the result of a verified life-emergency will receive no grade and there will be no make-up. Exceptional cases for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., require supporting documentation (e.g. a doctor's note).
3. Attendance: I periodically take attendance at the beginning or end of class. For every class missed (or in which you fail to sign in because you arrived too late, or left early), I will deduct 2% from your final grade.
4. Email: ONLY use the email address on this syllabus for your correspondence with me (hermanso@fiu.edu).
5. Keep your returned assignments: It is your responsibility to hold onto them until the course has ended.
6. You must submit a HARD COPY of your essays (no cover page, no fancy binding, stapled, numbered, double-spaced, and with a bibliography). Email submissions are not allowed.
7. Blue books: you need 3 blue books for your tests.
8. Texts: You must obtain the required text *within the first week* of class. I may ask you to bring your book to class or suffer a grade penalty.
9. The use of computers & mobile phones is not permitted.
10. Students taking this class are presumed to have read and understood their obligations.

Grading Scheme

A	90 – 100
A-	80 – 89
B+	77 – 79

B	73 - 76
B-	70 - 72
C+	67 - 69
C	63 - 66
C-	60 - 62
D+	57 - 59
D	53 - 56
D-	50 - 52
F	< 50

FIU's policy on plagiarism:

Plagiarism is an academic misconduct and defined as *the deliberate use and appropriation of another's works without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for the ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism.*

Examples include: Term papers acquired online or from other sources; Copying of original material without attribution; Use of other students' work; Copying and pasting, verbatim, information from Internet sources, without quotation marks and correct citation.

N.b. "Recycling" work submitted in other courses is also prohibited.