

**PHIL 230 - EXPERIENCE AND REALITY:  
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF MIND  
TIME: TR - 8:00AM-9:15AM  
PLACE: PEABODY - 216**

**Instructor:**

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**About the Course:**

This class is intended to be an introduction to two central disciplines in philosophy: metaphysics and epistemology. Roughly speaking, metaphysics deals with questions having to do with what there is—what the ultimate nature of reality is. Epistemology has to do with how we come to know about the things in the world. However, since these two disciplines are vastly large, we will focus instead on one particular kind of stuff: *the mind*. What the mind is and how do we come to know about it will be the two main (metaphysical and epistemological) questions we will study in this class.

**Grading:**

There will be four exams total in this class. One short in-class test on September 4<sup>th</sup>, another short one on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, one take-home exam on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and an in-class final exam on December 13. There will be also two papers: one mid-term paper and one final paper. Each of these papers will be 8 to 12 pages. Alternatively you can write only one final paper, about 20 pages long, instead of the two short papers. This long paper will be due the day in which the final paper is due (viz. December 13<sup>th</sup>). Grades will be weighted as follows:

First exam:	10%
Second exam:	15%
Third exam:	15%
Final exam:	15%
First paper:	20%
Second Paper:	20%
(Long paper:	40%)
Participation:	5%

Remember: Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable, because any breach in academic integrity, however small, strikes destructively at the University's life and work.

The Honor Code and the Campus Code, embodying the ideals of academic honesty, integrity, and responsible citizenship, have for over 100 years governed the performance of all academic work and student conduct at the University. Acceptance by a student of enrollment in the University presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in these codes and a respect for this most significant University tradition.

Your participation in this course comes with my expectation that your work will be completed in full observance of the Honor Code. (You can learn more about it at <http://instrument.unc.edu>).

## Required Texts:

Rosenthal, D.M. (1991). *The Nature of Mind*. NY: OUP.

Schacter, D.L. (1997). *Searching for Memory: The Brain, the Mind, and the Past*. Basic Books.  
Some texts will be available on Blackboard.

In what follows, parenthesized numbers refers to chapters in the Rosenthal text; '(BB)' refers to texts available on Blackboard, and '(S)' refers to Schacter's book.

## Schedule:

As you will see, there are two kinds of readings for each day: the *main* reading, which is mandatory for everyone, and the *suggested* reading which—as you may suspect—is optional, *unless* you are writing a paper on that particular topic, in which case is required.

### I. Historical background:

1. August 21 – Descartes (1). Selection. (pp. 21-29).  
Suggested: Remaining of (1): (pp. 30-37).
2. August 23 – Locke (2): From *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (pp. 38-44)  
Suggested: Reid (4): From *Essays on the Intellectual Power of Man* (pp. 45-50)
3. August 28 – Hume (BB): *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. Sects. 2 - 3.  
Suggested: (BB): Section 1.
4. August 30 – Russell + Wittgenstein (BB). Selection from *Philosophy of Logical Atomism* and *Philosophical Investigations*.

### II. What's the mind?

5. Sept 4 – Ryle (4). "Descartes Myth" (pp. 51-57). **In-class exam on *Historical background*.**  
Suggested: Ryle (BB): *The Concept of Mind*. Ch. 2.
6. Sept 6 – Smart (17): "Sensations and Brain Processes". (pp. 169-176)  
Suggested: Place (BB): "Is consciousness a brain process?"
7. Sept 11 – Armstrong (19): "The Causal Theory of the Mind" (pp. 181-188)  
Suggested: Shaffer (18): "Mental Events and the brain" (pp. 177-180)
8. Sept 13 – Putnam (21): "The nature of mental states" (197-203).  
Suggested: Lycan (BB). "The Continuity of Levels of Nature"
9. Sept 18 – Block (23): "Troubles with Functionalism" (211-228).  
Suggested: Lewis (24): "Mad Pain and Martian Pain" (pp. 229-235)
10. Sept 20 – Churchland (61): "Eliminative materialism and the propositional attitudes" (pp. 601-612)  
Suggested: Feyerabend (28): "Mental Events and the brain" (pp. 266-267)
11. Sept 25 – Davidson (26): "Mental Events" (pp. 247-256). **First short-paper due.**  
Suggested: Kim (BB): "Mental Causation"
12. Sept 27 – Review session

### III. Intentionality and mental representation

13. Oct 2 – Chisholm (31). "Intentional Inexistence" (pp. 297-303). **In-class exam on *What's the mind?*.**  
Suggested: Brentano (BB): Selection from *Psychology from an Empirical Standpoint*
14. Oct 4 – Fodor (35): "Propositional Attitudes" (pp. 325-338).

- Suggested: Fodor (53): “Methodological solipsism...” (pp. 485-498)
15. Oct 9 – Dretske (BB): “Misrepresentation”  
Suggested: Millikan (BB): “Biosemantics”
16. Oct 11 – Dennett (36): “True Believers” (pp. 339-353)  
Suggested: Dennett (BB): “Real Patterns”

#### **IV. Consciousness, computers, and the will**

17. Oct 16 – Nagel (46). “What is it like to be a bat?”. (pp. 422-428).  
Suggested: Farrell (BB). “Experience”
18. Oct 18 – Fall break. **No class.**
19. Oct 23 – Jackson (42). “What Mary didn’t know”. (pp. 392-394)  
Suggested: Shoemaker (43). “Functionalism and qualia”. (pp. 395-407)
20. Oct 25 – Ryle (BB): *The Concept of Mind*. Ch. 3.  
Suggested: Ryle (47): from *Self Knowledge* (pp. 429-431)
21. Oct 30 – Searle (55). “Minds, Brains and Programs” (pp. 509-519)  
Suggested: Turing (BB): “Computing machinery and intelligence”.

#### **V. Memory**

22. Nov 1 – (S). Introduction and Ch. 1. **Take-home exam on *Consciousness, computers and the will.***  
Suggested: Tulving (BB): “Concepts of Memory”
23. Nov 6 – (S). Ch. 2 – 3.  
Suggested: Brown et al. (BB): “Encoding and Retrieval of Information”
24. Nov 8 – (S) Ch. 4.  
Suggested: Roediger et al. (BB): “Distortions of Memory”
25. Nov 13 – (S). Ch. 5 – 6.  
Suggested: Squire and Zola (BB): “Amnesia, Memory and Brain Systems”
26. Nov 15 – (S). Ch. 7  
Suggested: Schoder et al. (BB) “Memory for Emotional Events”
27. Nov 20 – (S). Ch. 8.  
Suggested: Pujol and Kopelman (BB): “Psychogenic Amnesia”
28. Nov 22 – Thanksgiving. **No class.**
29. Nov 27 – (S) Ch. 9 – 10  
Suggested: Loftus (BB): “Memory Distortion and False Memory Creation”
30. Nov 29 – Owens (BB): “The Authority of Memory”  
Suggested: Furlong (BB): “Memory”
31. Dec 4 – Review session.
32. Dec 13 – **Final exam. Second or long-paper due.**