INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND:
SELVES, GHOSTS & MACHINES

This course is about the relationship between human beings and the natural world. Are human beings natural? Alternatively, do we in some way stand outside the natural order? In order to answer these questions, we will consider what we are.

We will discuss the following topics:

*The Self*: What is the nature of the self? What makes you – the individual sitting here reading this at the beginning of the course – the same as the individual who will receive a grade at the end of the course? Is it enough for the same body to be there?

*The Mind*: Descartes famously held that he just was his mind, but what is a mind? Is it immaterial? Or is it simply a part of the natural world (e.g. a part of the brain)?

*Consciousness*: Does human conscious experience present a special problem for the view that the mind is part of the natural order? What about bat consciousness?

*Rationality*: We can think about the world. And what we think about can lead us to act rationally. This is an extraordinary ability that many philosophers and scientists think can be explained in terms of computation. Is it true that we can account for this ability in purely computational terms?

*The Unconscious*: It is widely thought that there are mental states and processes that are not available to consciousness. We will consider one famous example, implicit bias, and what it might show us about the extent of the unconscious.

*Animal Cognition*: Are human beings and other (perhaps “higher”) animals similar in having beliefs, desires, and so on? Are we capable of similar sorts of cognition or do humans have powers that are unique in the animal kingdom?

INSTRUCTOR ............ Andrew Jewell (jewell@humnet.ucla.edu)
OFFICE HOURS .......... TBD
TA ....................... TBD

PHILOS 007 is a lower-division Introduction to Philosophy of Mind course that addresses a range of philosophical questions about the mind. This is a summer course, so the reading and assignment schedule is greatly accelerated. There will be a sizable amount of reading each week. You absolutely must do the readings and attend class and discussion in order to do well in this class.
GOALS

This class is intended to introduce you to some of the most interesting debates in Philosophy of Mind. I hope that by the end of the course, you will have some understanding of the general positions in these debates, be able to think about them critically, and be able to apply some of what you have learned to your own thinking. The course is also a great opportunity for you to learn about the practice of philosophy as such, and to hone and develop your philosophical and critical thinking abilities. The weekly assignments and class discussion will focus heavily on developing these skills.

ACCESSIBILITY

I am committed to an inclusive classroom in which all students have an opportunity to learn and excel. I recognize that not all students learn in the same way. Students needing an accommodation based on a disability of any kind should contact me personally or the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825-1501 or at Murphy Hall A255. Every effort will be made to accommodate students in a timely and confidential manner.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Philosophical texts are invariably complicated, even when they may appear otherwise, and it significantly helps with understanding to come to class with questions and thoughts in advance. For this reason, it is required and extremely important that you do the reading before the class meets. There will be short writing assignments to promote this aim. In addition, I very highly recommend the following guide to reading philosophy:

http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html

There are two primary graded assignments for the course: a midterm exam and a final paper. There will also be four short writing assignments (we will skip the first week and last week) that will require you to exercise a particular philosophical skill. These assignments will be graded check-plus/check/check-minus/no-check. The check system will correspond to a numerical percentage of 100/90/75/0 (respectively).

The papers and writing assignments must be submitted on turn-it-in (found on my.ucla.edu) where they will be graded anonymously. The assignments that you submit must be your own work. You are responsible for understanding the UCLA academic honesty policy found here: https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Individual-Student-Code. I am diligent in reporting all cases of suspected academic misconduct. I am willing to give extensions in unusual circumstances, and the TA and myself are happy to help if you feel stuck on something.
The final grades will be determined according to this rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>40.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>38.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>17.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
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*The penalty for late assignments is a deduction of 1/3 a whole letter grade per day late. Concretely, this means that a B+ paper that is a day late is penalized to a B.*

The participation score will not be awarded automatically. The score will be calculated by your participation in the short exercises distributed in some classes (3/5 of your grade) and by your participation in section/class/office hours/etc (2/5 of your grade).

**TEXTS FOR THE COURSE**

**(CW) Course Website** [the majority of the readings will be found here]

**(PI) Perry, J. A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality** (≈ 6$ on Amazon)*

**(PM) Ravenscroft, I. Philosophy of Mind: A Beginners Guide** (≈ 30-40$ on Amazon)*

* there are copies of PI and PM in the Philosophy Department Reading Room.

**(TENTATIVE) COURSE SCHEDULE**

1. **Introduction**
   
   (1) A broad introduction to the problems of the course

2. **What is the self?**
   
   (1) Two illustrative video clips
   
   (2) Three problems of personal identity
   
   (3) Discussion of the dualist theory of personal identity
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND SUMMER A

Reading: Perry, J. *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*

3. **What is required for survival of the self?**

(1) Discussion of the body theory and the psychological continuity theory
(2) Conclude the section on personal identity

Reading: Perry, J. *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*

4. **What is the mind?**

(1) Introduction to the subject: “the mind, what is it good for?” (absolutely a ton)
(2) Introduction to substance dualism and materialism about the mind

Reading: Descartes, René, *Meditations on First Philosophy* [excerpt] [CW]

5. **Is the mind physical (part I)?**

(1) Introduction to the subject matter: the mind and the mind/body problem
(2) Arguments for substance dualism

Reading: Ravenscroft, I. *Philosophy of Mind: A Beginner's Guide*, Chapter One
Reading: Descartes, René, *Meditations* … [excerpt 6th Mediation] [CW]
Reading: Hart, W.D., “An Argument for Dualism” [excerpt] [CW]

6. **Is the mind physical (part II)?**

(1) Arguments against dualism
(2) Introduction to materialism and arguments for the identity theory

Reading: Correspondence between Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia and René Descartes [excerpt] [CW]
Reading: Kim, Jaegwon, *Mental Causation* [excerpt] [CW]

7. **Is the mind physical (part III)?**

(1) Further motivation for the identity theory
(2) Some problems with the simple identity theory
(3) More sophisticated kinds of materialist theories

Reading: Churchland, Patricia, “Soul Searching” [CW]
Reading: Ravenscroft, I. *Philosophy of Mind: A Beginner's Guide* [Ch. 3]

*optional: Braddon-Mitchell, David and Frank Jackson, *Philosophy of Mind* … [excerpt] [CR]*

8. **Consciousness**

(1) Consciousness: what are we talking about?
(2) What is it like to be a bat?

Reading: Dennett, Daniel, “A Visit to the Phenomenological Garden” [excerpt] [CW]
Reading: Nagel, Thomas, “What is it like to be a bat?” [excerpt] [CW]

9. Knowledge and consciousness (part I)

(1) The Knowledge Argument

Reading: Jackson, Frank, “What Mary Didn't Know” [excerpt] [CW]
Reading: Ravenscroft, I. Philosophy of Mind: A Beginner's Guide [Ch. 12]

10. Knowledge and consciousness (part II)

(1) Problems with the Knowledge Argument

Reading: Hogan, Terence, “Jackson on Physical Information and Qualia” [excerpt] [CW]
Reading: Lewis, David, Postscript to “Psychophysical and Theoretical Identifications” [CW]

→ MIDTERM DUE

11. Thought

(1) What is thinking?
(2) What is intentionality?
(3) What should a theory of thought explain?

Reading: Ravenscroft, I. Philosophy of Mind: A Beginner's Guide, Chapter 6
Reading: Crane, Timothy, The Mechanical Mind [excerpts] [CW]

12. Computational theories

(1) A brief introduction to computation
(2) Computation amongst bees (kinds of computation)
(3) Computational theories of rational thought

Reading: Crane, Timothy, The Mechanical Mind, Chapter 3 [excerpts] [CW]
Reading: Clark, Andy, Mindware [excerpts] [CW]

13. Mindless robots

(1) One famous challenge to the computational theory
(2) Alexa! Can you understand me?

Reading: Searle, John, “Minds, Brains, and Programs” [excerpt] [CW]
Reading: Crane, Timothy, The Mechanical Mind [excerpt] [CW]
14. Implicit bias (part I)

(1) The contours of the phenomenon

Reading: Jules Holroyd, Robin Scaife, and Tom Stafford - “What is Implicit Bias?” [CW]

15. Implicit bias (part II)

(1) Possible costs of the phenomenon
(2) Some recent controversy

Reading: Gendler, Tamar, “On the epistemic costs of implicit biases” [CW]

14. The unconscious mind

(1) Unconscious intentional states?
(2) Searle’s Connection Principle

Reading: Searle, John, “Consciousness, Unconsciousness and Intentionality” [excerpt] [CW] [this reading is tentative]
Reading: Hauser, Larry “Chinese Room Argument” Oxford Companion to Consciousness [very short excerpt] [CW]

17. Do animals have minds?

(1) No! Descartes’ view of animals
(2) Davidson’s view of animal minds

Reading: Descartes, René, Discourse on Method (Part V) [excerpts] [CW]
Reading: Davidson, Donald, “Rational Animals” [excerpts] [CW]

18. Animal cognition

(1) Critique of Davidson
(2) Thermometers
(3) Invertebrate minds?
(4) Some worries about invertebrate minds

Reading: Dennett, Daniel, “Do animals have minds?” [CW]
Reading: Carruthers, Peter, “Intervebrate Minds: A Challenge for Ethical Theory”

⇒ FINAL DUE