

**Philosophy JH7 (PHIL 4030) Philosophy of Mind  
Syllabus 2017-18  
Lectures: Tues & Thurs 11am-12pm, WILT 114 AB Seminar**

<b>Course Convenor</b>	<b>Office*</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Office hours</b>
Dr. Derek Brown	Room 504	x5376	derek.brown.2@glasgow.ac.uk	Tues/Thurs 10-11am (starting Feb. 6)

**Lecturers**

Dr. J. Adam Carter	Room 525	x2031	adam.carter@glasgow.ac.uk	Tues/Thurs 12-1pm (starting Jan. 11)
Dr. Derek Brown	(as above)			

**Seminar Leaders**

Dr. David Bain	Room 521	x8768	david.bain@glasgow.ac.uk	NA
Dr. Derek Brown	(as above)			

\* Offices are on top floor of 67-69 Oakfield Avenue

**Course Overview**

Welcome! In this course we will chart the attempts in philosophy, psychology and cognitive science since the beginning of the 20th century to develop an alternative conception of the mind to Cartesian Dualism: one that is naturalistic, scientifically tractable and philosophically satisfactory. After a brief introduction to Dualism, discussion proceeds with Behaviourism, early physicalist Identity Theories, forms of Functionalism, and consciousness. Along the way, such topics are explored as thought, perception, subjectivity, qualia, mental causation, the analogy between mind and computer, and the dependence of mental content on the environment.

Our main mode of communication with you (when not in your presence!) will be **Moodle**, so please ensure you're enrolled on the JH7 Moodle page and that its announcements are being forwarded to whatever email address you check regularly. You're encouraged to use the **Moodle discussion forums** to talk philosophy with your peers (and us, from time to time). Discussion is key to getting better at philosophy. By all means contact us directly with philosophical questions (or ask at or after lectures, but Moodle benefits others who are reading, so we will sometimes anonymise emailed questions and answer them on Moodle).

**Required Text**

Kim, J. (2010). *Philosophy of Mind*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Westview Press.

\*Additional readings will be made available via Moodle, some of which are listed below.

**Assessment**

Exam (70% of final grade), written during exam period.

Essay (30% of final grade), due 13 March 2018.

**Essay Question: Should we be functionalists about the mind? If so, why? If not, why not?**

In your essay you should consider at least some combination of the following: the mind-computer analogy; arguments for/against further reducing the mind to neural states; arguments for/against reducing the mind to the physical; mental causation; consciousness.

### Lecture Schedule (overview – rough guide)

Topic	Lectures	Chpt in Kim Text
Introduction and Overview: What is Philosophy of Mind?	1 (11 Jan)	1
My body's my ship, for now (Dualism)	2-3 (16&18 Jan)	2
You are how you act (Behaviourism)	4-5 (23&25 Jan)	3
It's all about the meat (Mind-Brain Identity Theory)	6-7 (30 Jan & 1 Feb)	4
The mind as computer (Functionalism)	8-10 (6,8,13 Feb)	5&6
Does your mind move you? (Mental Causation)	11-12 (15&20 Feb)	7
I am awake (Consciousness I)	13-14 (22&27 Feb)	9
Living without Colour (Consciousness II)	15-16 (1&6 March)	10
Summary	17 (8 March)	

### Seminar Schedule

Seminars	Weeks	Topic
1	3&4	Dualism
2	5&6	Mind-Brain Identity Theory
3	7&8	Mental Causation
4	9&10	Consciousness

Each student must sign up for a seminar group via Moodle. Details about each seminar will be made available on Moodle, including readings, locations and discussion questions.

### Lecture Schedule (further details)

#### Lecture 1: What is Philosophy of Mind?

*Required reading:*

1. Kim, J. (2010). *Philosophy of Mind, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* Westview Press, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-28)

Optional reading:

#### Lectures 2 & 3: Dualism

*Required reading:*

1. Kim, 'Mind as Immaterial Substance: Descartes' Dualism,' Ch. 2

*Further reading:*

1. Descartes, Meditations in Cottingham, J., Stoothof, R. and Murdoch, D. (transl.), *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes, Vol. II* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985).
2. Papineau, D., *Philosophical Naturalism* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1993): Ch. 1
3. Kim, J. "Physicalism or Something Near it," Ch. 3
4. Lowe, E.J. "Minds, Bodies and People," Chapter 2 of E.J. Lowe, *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2000).

## **Lectures 4&5: Behaviourism**

*Required reading:*

1. Kim, 'Mind and Behaviour: Behaviourism,' Ch. 3

*Further Reading:*

1. Carnap, R. "Psychology in Physical Language"
2. "[Behaviourism](#)" in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.
3. [Gilbert Ryle \(Behaviourism\)](#) in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

## **Lectures 6&7: Mind-Brain Identity Theory**

*Required reading:*

1. Kim, 'Mind as the Brain: The Psychoneural Identity Theory,' Ch. 4.

*Further reading:*

1. Smart, J.J.C. "Sensations and Brain Processes," in *Philosophy of Mind: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by David J. Chalmers.
2. Feigl, Herbert "The 'Mental' and the 'Physical,'" in *Philosophy of Mind: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by David J. Chalmers.

## **Lectures 8-10: Functionalism**

*Required reading:*

1. Kim, 'Mind as a Computing Machine: Machine Functionalism (Ch 5) and 'Mind as a Causal System: Causal-Theoretical Functionalism' (Ch 6).

*Further reading:*

1. Putnam, H. 1967. "The nature of mental states," in *Philosophy of Mind: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by David J. Chalmers.
2. Lewis, D. 1980. "Psychophysical and theoretical identifications," in *Philosophy of Mind: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by David J. Chalmers.
3. Searle, J. 1980. "Minds, brains, programs," *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 3(3): 417-457.
4. Block, N. 1980. "Troubles With Functionalism," in Block 1980, *Readings in the Philosophy of Psychology, Volumes 1 and 2*: 268–305. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

## **Lectures 11-12: Mental Causation**

*Required reading:*

1. Kim, 'Mental Causation,' Ch 7

*Further reading:*

1. Putnam, H. 1967. "The nature of mental states," in *Philosophy of Mind: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by David J. Chalmers.
2. Jackson, F. 1982. "Epiphenomenal qualia," in *Philosophical Quarterly*, 32: 127-136.

### **Lectures 13-14: Consciousness I: What is it?**

#### *Required reading:*

1. Kim, "What is consciousness?" Ch 9

#### *Further reading:*

1. Nagel, T. 1974. "What is it like to be a bat?" *The Philosophical Review*, Vol. 83(4): pp. 435-450.
2. Block, N. 2002. "Concepts of consciousness," in David J. Chalmers (ed.), *Philosophy of Mind: Contemporary Readings*, pp. 206-218. Oxford University Press.

### **Lectures 15-16: Consciousness II: Consciousness and the Mind-Body Problem**

#### *Required reading:*

1. Kim, "Consciousness and the Mind-Body Problem," Ch 10.

#### *Further reading:*

1. Jackson, F., 1986, "What Mary Didn't Know", *Journal of Philosophy* 83: 291–295.
2. Levine, J. 1983. "Materialism and qualia: the explanatory gap," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 64: 354-361.
3. Chalmers, D., 2004, "Phenomenal Concepts and the Knowledge Argument," in P. Ludlow, Y. Nagasawa & D. Stoljar (eds.), *There's Something About Mary: Essays on Phenomenal Consciousness and Frank Jackson's Knowledge Argument*, pp. 268-298. MIT Press.

### **Lectures 17: Summary**