

Philosophy of Mind (Day 1 version)

Philosophy 416/516, Fall 2009

Class #32184 / #32185

Arts & Sciences 14; MWF 1:40-2:35

<http://phi516.profron.net>

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Requirements:

Papers: Topics for short (about 1500 words) papers will be handed out four times during the semester, and will be due about a week after being assigned. You must do two of these, including at least one of the first two. (See the *Addenda* page for the rules on late papers.) For PHI 416, each short paper is worth 20% of the course grade. In PHI 516, students will rewrite one of their two short papers into a longer (about 3000-4000 words) paper; for them, the two short papers are each worth 15% of the course grade, and the longer paper is worth 20%.

Exams: There will be three 55-minute in class closed-book tests, spaced relatively equally throughout the semester. Tests are mostly short-answer format, and will be non-comprehensive. (See the *Addenda* page for the rules on makeup exams.) In PHI 416, a student's two best exam scores are each worth 20% of the final course grade; in PHI 516, the two best exam scores are each worth 15% of the final course grade.

Participation, etc.: Class and online participation and other stuff will total 20% of your course grade. This will include the following, and perhaps more: Every few classes, I will hold a "Chat Day", in which we devote a class to a question-and-answer and discussion period; you'll be expected to come prepared and to participate. There will also be a class discussion board, and I will ask you to post a "Thought of the Week" to the discussion board before each chat day; topics for each ToW will be given out in class. Note that if you don't attend class, that's clearly non-participation, and will be graded accordingly.

Summary: Grades for students in 416 will be 20% for each of two short papers, 20% for each of their two best exam grades, and 20% for class/online participation/etc. Grades for students in PHI 516 will be 15% for each of two short papers, 20% for the longer paper, 15% for each for their two best exam grades, and 20% for class/online participation.

Readings: All readings for the course will come either from the anthology *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, David Chalmers, Ed. (on order at MaryJane Books) or from PDFs posted on the course Ereserves page.

Course outline (under revision; expect some changes):

Part I: The Mind-Body Problem

- **Dualism:**
 - Churchland, *Matter & Consciousness*, chapter 2
 - Smullyan, "An Unfortunate Dualist"
 - Descartes, *Meditation II* and from *Meditation VI*
 - Descartes, from *The Passions of the Soul, Part I*
- **Varieties of Materialism:**
 - Churchland, from *Matter & Consciousness*, chapter 2
 - Boyd, from "Materialism without Reductionism"
 - Kripke, from "Identity and Necessity"
 - McClamrock, from *Existential Cognition*, chapter 1
 - Davidson, from "The Material Mind"
- **Epiphenomenalism and Mental Causation:**
 - Campbell, from *Body and Mind*
 - McClamrock, from "Anomalous Pluralism and the Empowerment of Experience"
 - Kim, "Mental Causation"
 - McClamrock, "Emergence Unscathed"

Part II: Methods and Approaches

- **Behaviorism:**
 - Putnam, "Brains and Behavior"
 - Dennett, "Skinner Skinned"
 - Skinner, from *Science and Human Behavior*
 - Chomsky, from the review of *Verbal Behavior*
- **Brains and Reductionism:**
 - Churchland (Patricia), from *Neurophilosophy*
 - Churchland, *Matter & Consciousness*, chapter 5.4
 - Putnam, from "Reductionism & the Nature of Psychology"
 - Gardner, from *The Mind's New Science*
 - Oatley, from *Perceptions & Representations*

• Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence:

- Gardner, from *The Mind's New Science*
- Schank, "What is AI, Anyway?"
- Haugeland, from "Semantic Engines"
- Flanagan, from *The Science of the Mind*
- Searle, "Minds, Brains, and Programs"

Part III: Puzzles and Limits

- **Intentionality and Embeddedness:**
 - Fodor, "The Persistence of the Attitudes"
 - Fodor, from "Methodological Solipsism Considered..."
 - Fodor, from *Psychosemantics*, chapter 2
 - McClamrock, "Methodological Individualism Considered..."
 - Burge, "Individualism and Psychology"
 - Simon, from "Economic Rationality"
 - McClamrock, from *Existential Cognition*, chapter 6
- **Sensation and Qualia:**
 - Churchland, "The Semantics of Observation Predicates"
 - McClamrock, from *Existential Cognition*, chapter 10
 - Block, "Are Absent Qualia Impossible?"
 - Shoemaker, from "Absent Qualia are Impossible: A Reply to Block"
- **Irreducibility and Consciousness:**
 - Nagel, "What Is It Like To Be a Bat?"
 - Churchland, from *Matter & Consciousness*, pp.33-34
 - Lycan, *Consciousness*, chapter 7
 - McClamrock, "Irreducibility and Subjectivity"
 - Dennett, from *Consciousness Explained*

Philosophy of Mind Syllabus Addenda (PHI 416/516 – Fall 2009 – McClamrock)

Paper Submission Rules:

- All papers must be submitted electronically, transmitted as documents attached to a piece of e-mail addressed to me at ron@albany.edu.
- Electronic documents sent to me should be saved in the format known as **RTF** ("Rich Text Format"). Almost all word processors will save and load RTF. Please, no *Microsoft Word* ".docx" documents, or any other such proprietary format. Note that to save as RTF, you can't just change the file extension to ".rtf"; you need to use "Save As" under your "File" menu and select "Rich Text Format" as the file type.
- Name the file you send to me as "Lastname_Firstname_416A1Q1.rtf", substituting your name in for "Lastname_Firstname", and the appropriate assignment and question numbers in place of "A1" and "Q1" (and "516" for "416" if you're in the graduate section of the course). So, for example: Assignment #2 written on Question 3 from undergraduate student Eric Cartman should be named "Cartman_Eric_416A2Q3.rtf".
- Please format papers simply, single-spaced, with your name, the assignment and question number, and any title you might give to the paper at the top of the first page (don't use a separate title page). I'd prefer that the text font be 12pt Times-Roman or Helvetica and that the left margin be 1" and the right margin 2.5". Please also include page numbers and a word count.. You can get a sample formatted this way that will give you a template or model from the web page.
- When you send papers to me, please cc: yourself to make sure everything worked OK.

Missed Exams:

Makeup exams are given only when extreme circumstances make it *impossible* for you to take the test when given; e.g., when you are hospitalized on that day. In these extreme circumstances, in order to be given a makeup exam, you must do all of the following.

1. If you are an undergraduate, you must obtain a letter of excuse from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies; all inquiries about such letters and the documentation required for them should be directed to the Dean's office (LC-30). This request (with documentation) is to be made to the Dean's office no more than two weekdays after the end of the period for which you are asking to be excused. (Graduate student should come to me directly concerning documentation.)
2. Give me a written (e-mail is best, paper is OK) request for a makeup exam. This request should be given to me no more than two weekdays after the end of the period for which your absence has been excused.
3. Talk to me in person at the end of the first class after your excused absence in order to schedule a makeup.

You must do all of these in order to be given a makeup. But even if you do, I reserve the right to judge that the excuse is inadequate, in which case I may decline to give the makeup.

Late papers:

Late papers are marked down by one grade notch (e.g. B to B- or B- to C+) for every hour or portion thereof I receive them after the due date and time. The only exception is the one noted under "Missed exams": If there are such extreme circumstances, and a paper is due during an excused absence, you may get an extension until the first day not covered by the excused absence. In such a case, the paper is due on that day, at the same time of day it was originally due.

Grade Calculation Rules:

1. Every graded piece of work (exam, paper, whatever) is given a letter grade. These letter grades range from A+ (the best) to F (the worst).
2. Each of these letter grades has a numerical equivalent, as indicated in this chart:

A+ = 15	B = 11	C- = 7	E+ = 3
A = 14	B- = 10	D+ = 6	E = 2
A- = 13	C+ = 9	D = 5	E- = 1
B+ = 12	C = 8	D- = 4	F = 0

"Slash" grades like "A-/B+" are equivalent to the midpoint between the two grades; e.g., a grade of A-/B+ is calculated as a 12.5.

3. In calculating your final grade, all that matters is (the numerical equivalents of) your various letter grades for the various graded pieces of work.
4. I use the numerical equivalents of the letter grades to calculate a composite numerical grade using whatever procedure I've specified for the particular class.
5. I round the composite numerical grade to the nearest integer (.5 and above go up, below go down).
6. I convert back to letter grades using the chart above. You get the letter grade determined by the chart, except if (i) you got an A+, in which case your official grade is an A (the University doesn't use A+), or (ii) you got lower than a D-, in which case your official grade is E. Note that for graduate students, the only passing grades are B and above.

On getting a grade of "I" (Incomplete):

Students in PHI 416 can get an "I" (Incomplete) only if you have an excused absence of the sort described under "Missed Exams" prevents you from either taking the last of the exams or turning in the last of the papers. Students in 516 who've finished everything but the long paper can get an "I". For both 416 and 516, to get an "I" you must explicitly ask for one – preferably by e-mail. All incompletes must be made up within 2 weeks of the original deadline for final papers unless some other arrangement is made prior to the submission of the grade of "I".

Cheating:

Students judged to be cheating, whether by plagiarizing or in other ways, will be failed for the course and turned in to the UA for further action.