

❧ PHILOSOPHY OF MIND ❧

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<b>I.</b>	<b>PROF. POLGER</b>
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Office Hours: open door, and by appointment	

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<b>II.</b>	<b>LOCATION &amp; TIME</b>
205 McMicken Hall	TTH 11:00-12:20

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<b>III.</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
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This course will bring students up to speed with the central debates in contemporary Anglo-American philosophy of mind, with particular attention to ontological issues. Students will learn to recognize and explain all of the live philosophical positions, and to explain and evaluate the most significant arguments for and against each view. A general familiarity with philosophical texts and skills is assumed, as is an introductory knowledge of key terms and ideas in philosophy of mind, e.g., from PHIL 105/1002. Earning an A in this course is evidence of preparedness for advanced study in philosophy of mind, e.g., 5000 or 7000-level courses.

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<b>IV.</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES</b>
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The initial scheme for the courses is that your final grade will be determined by one quiz and three papers, as follows:

- September 17, Diagnostic Quiz, 10%
- October 10, First paper due, 30%
- November 7, Second paper due, 30%
- December 3, Third paper due, 30%

However: If at any time I judge that the class is not keeping up with the readings or discussion, I will start adding more quizzes (including pop-quizzes) at values to be determined by me; in that case I will make adjustments to the grading scheme as needed.

All out of class work must be typed (word processed, whatever) legibly on one side of unlined white 8.5 x 11 paper. Text should be double-spaced, in a standard 10-12 point font. Margins should be at least 1 inch on each side. Pages should be numbered and stapled together. Work that does not satisfy these requirements will not be accepted. Late papers will be penalized at a rate of 20% per 24 hour increment, starting the moment that class ends, unless you provide evidence of a documented medical emergency involving you or an immediate family member. (That is, a paper submitted at 2:00pm the next day is two days late and will be discounted 40%.) Papers may be submitted early as long as they are submitted at least one calendar day prior to the due date. Papers submitted on the due date but not during class are late; this includes papers dropped off before class, as well as those that appear (as if by magic!) in my office or mailbox during class. Emailed papers will be accepted but are treated as late, unless prior permission has been arranged.

**V.****REQUIRED TEXTS**

One book is required for this course, *Natural Minds*, by Professor Polger. Other readings will be posted online, via Blackboard. For many readings I will instruct you to read only a portion of the article(s) or chapter(s). You must attend class to find out which excerpts are assigned.

**VI.****PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

I understand that many students use laptops, tablets, etc. in class for note taking and for access to online course materials. Such use is permitted so long as it is not distracting to students or instructors, or otherwise disruptive to the classroom environment. Please turn off ringers on your cell phones, as well as the audio feedback or speakers on any other electronic devices. Use of headphones, earbuds, or similar in class is prohibited excepting documented medical need. Use of portable electronic devices is subject to the usual standards of classroom decorum and common courtesy. You may at any time be asked to discontinue use.

**VII.****THE FINE PRINT**

You are responsible for knowing and following all University and College regulations, for example with respect to registration, drop or withdrawal, and grading status. It goes without saying, but we will nevertheless, that this course will be conducted according to the University's Student Code of Conduct. *Any student who is academically dishonest will at least fail the course; further actions may be taken.*

Please familiarize yourself with the University's guidelines on academic integrity, online at <<http://www.uc.edu/studentlife/conduct/guide.html>>. Pay special attention to the guidelines regarding plagiarism, which I take very seriously. In particular, note that academic dishonesty is a "strict liability" offense. You do not have to intend to cheat to be guilty of plagiarism—you must ensure that your work is your own and that no one else presents your work as theirs.

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, needs special arrangements to meet course requirements must contact us *immediately* so that the appropriate arrangements can be made. (All disabilities must be documented with the University and us.)

Any student who requires accommodation for religious observances must notify the instructor in advance.

All students are expected to have access to the equipment and knowledge to make use of and complete the Blackboard-based readings and assignments.

The readings and schedule are subject to change with reasonable advance notice.

You should expect to be treated with respect and fairness by the instructor and by your classmates.

**Background Readings:**

Jaegwon Kim, ch. 1 of *Mind in a Physical World*

**Week 1 • August 27 & 29 • Introduction and Behaviorism**

Introduction

Hilary Putnam, Brains and Behavior

**Week 2 • September 3 & 5 • Physicalism and Identity Theories**

Gilbert Ryle, Descartes' Myth

J. J. C. Smart, Sensations and Brain Processes

**Week 3 • September 10 & 12 • No Class This Week**

*This is a good time to review Background Readings*

**Week 4 • September 17 & 19 • Multiple Realization and Functionalism**

Hilary Putnam, The Nature of Mental States

Patricia Churchland, The Significance of Neuroscience for Philosophy

Thomas Polger, ch. 1 of *Natural Minds*

**Week 5 • September 24 & 26 • Functionalism and Mental Content**

Daniel Dennett, True Believers

Frances Egan, Computation and Content

**Week 6 • October 1 & 3 • Machine Minds**

Alan Turing, Computing Machinery and Intelligence

John Searle, Minds, Brains, and Programs

**Week 7 • October 8 & 10 • Trouble for Functionalism**

*Reading Day on October 8*

Ned Block, Troubles with Functionalism

**Week 8 • October 15 & 17 • Consciousness**

Thomas Nagel, What Is It Like to Be a Bat?

Kathleen Akins, What Is It Like to Be Boring and Myopic?

**Week 9 • October 22 & 24 • More Consciousness**

Frank Jackson, Epiphenomenal Qualia

Robert Van Gulick, Consciousness, Intrinsic Intentionality, and Self-Understanding  
Machines

**Week 10 • October 29 & 31 • Functionalism and Psychological Explanation**

Hilary Putnam, Philosophy and Our Mental Life

Jerry Fodor, The Special Sciences, or the Disunity of Science as a Working Hypothesis

**Week 11 • November 5 & 7 • Yet More Functionalisms**

Karen Neander, Teleological Theories of Mental Content

Thomas Polger, ch. 3-5 of *Natural Minds*

**Week 12 • November 12 & 14 • Functionalism and Psychological Explanation, Again**

Polger, ch. 6 of *Natural Minds*

Louise Antony and Joseph Levine, Reduction With Autonomy

**Week 13 • November 19 & 21 • Skepticism About Consciousness**

Patricia Churchland, Consciousness: The Transmutation of a Concept

Daniel Dennett, Quining Qualia

**Week 14 • November 26 & 28 • Radical Alternatives**

Anthony Chemero and David Silberstein, After The Philosophy Of Mind

Thanksgiving

**Week 15 • December 3 & 5 • Mental Causation**

Jaegwon Kim, chs. 2-3 of *Mind in a Physical World*

Karen Bennett, Exclusion Again