

303M: MIND AND BODY

Professor: Michael Tye

Webpage: www.michaeltye.us

E-mail: mtyle@austin.utexas.edu

Office: Waggener Hall 425

Office phone: 471-6789

Office hours: 11:00-11:30am Tuesday, 12:30-1:30pm Thursday, and by appointment

Teaching assistants: Matthias Barker and Bryce Dalbey

Office hours: TBA

Prerequisites: None

REQUIREMENTS

There are 2 closed book midterm tests and a closed book final exam. All will be a combination of very short essay questions and questions of an analytical sort designed to test your understanding of the material covered.

Midterm test 1 (part A): 40

Midterm test 1 (part B): 60

Midterm test 2: 100

Final exam: 100

300

No late exams will be administered without a documented reason (e.g., a doctor's note or a funeral slip). Please contact Dr. Tye BEFORE the relevant test or exam to make alternative arrangements.

The University of Texas at Austin provides, upon request, appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

1. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken in both lecture and discussion sections. Students who show a pattern of missing class either for lectures or

discussion sections will be demoted one grade below that earned on the tests and final exam.

2. Students are expected to keep abreast of readings from all textbooks. In-class questions and class discussion are encouraged.
3. Students MUST have an updated e-mail address in UTDirect. Class announcements will be made on the web at blackboard (go to courses.utexas.edu and follow the log-in instructions).
4. Prior to each class, the powerpoint slides for the upcoming class will be made available on the web at ut canvas (under files for this course) with some key words missing. **It is your responsibility to come to class with print-outs of these slides so that you can fill in the missing words during the class lectures. The lecture pace will be too fast for you to write down the entire contents of the slides in the event that you do not bring copies of them with you.**
5. Experts advise that students spend 2-3 hours studying out-of-class, per hour in-class time, to earn a passing grade. This means that students should spend an additional 5-7 hours studying philosophy of mind EACH week of class (not including the time spent in class).

GRADING: A total of 300 points may be accrued through the whole course. Attendance and class participation may contribute to raising the grades of students within a few points of the cutoff (but this is not guaranteed). Individual letter grades per test or exam will NOT be recorded, only points earned are recorded.

ALL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET TO RECEIVE A FINAL GRADE. This includes students taking the course on a pass/fail basis.

Points needed for Final Grades

**A 278-300; A- 270-277
B+ 263-269; B 247-262; B- 240-246
C+ 233-239; C 217-232; C- 210-216
D+ 203-209; D 187-202; D- 175-186**

TEXT BOOKS

There are two required text books:

Ian Ravenscroft, *Philosophy of Mind: A Beginner's Guide*
John Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*

There is one recommended text:

David Papineau, *Introducing Consciousness*

Some further readings are available on the web (as noted below).

COURSE CONTENT

This course examines the relationship of the mind to the body. Topics covered include whether a machine could think, the Turing Test for intelligence, whether fish have feelings, the reduction of the mind to the brain, whether consciousness can be captured materialistically, and the nature of persons and personal identity.

We'll be thinking about immaterial spirits, futuristic computers and robots, simple animals, Martians who behave like us but who have an internal structure very different from ours, brains in vats.... We will consider whether these strange characters have thoughts and feelings. The point is not to consider bizarre cases just for the sake of it, but to see what light we can shed on our own nature as beings with mental lives.

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SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

January 20 --- January 29

1) Can Machines Think? Part 1: The Turing Test

Papineau, pp. 90-93.

Turing: *Computing Machinery and Intelligence*,

<http://www.loebner.net/Prizef/TuringArticle.html>

<http://gizmodo.com/5921698/what-its-like-to-judge-the-turing-test>

2) Behaviorism

Ravenscroft, Chapter 2.

Papineau, pp. 37-42.

February 3 --- February 24

1) Substance Dualism

2) Animal Feelings

<http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-food/fish-feel-pain.aspx>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/9797948/Fish-cannot-feel-pain-say-scientists.html>
<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/animal-emotions/201406/the-emotional-lives-crayfish-stress-and-anxiety>

(For the last, click on the links in it on crabs, honey bees, and banned in Texas)

3) Property Dualism

Ravenscroft, Chapter 1.
Papineau, pp. 26-29, 54-58, 64-81.

TEST 1A: February 10

February 26 --- April 2

1) Mind-Brain Identity

Ravenscroft, Chapter 3.
Papineau, pp. 82-85.

TEST 1B: March 12

2) Can Machines Think (and Feel)? Part 2: Functionalism

Ravenscroft, Chapter 4.
Papineau, pp. 42-55, 86-87.

3) Challenges to Functionalism

The China Body Problem
Searle's Chinese Room
The Inverted Spectrum
Ravenscroft, 57-59, 91-94, 186-187.

Papineau, 88-89, 91-95
Searle, *Minds, Brains, and Programs*, to be made available.

April 7 --- April 14

1) Consciousness and Change Blindness

O'Regan, *Experience is not something we feel but something we do*,
<http://nivea.psycho.univ-paris5.fr/ASSChtml/Pacherie4.html>

2) Mary's Room and Consciousness

Papineau, pp. 3-14, 59-61, 100-103, 106-108.
Ravenscroft, Chapter 12, sections 1 and 2.
Tye: *Qualia*, <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/qualia>

April 16 --- May 7

1) Computationalism

Ravenscroft, Chapter 6.

TEST 2: April 21

2) Freewill

3) The Nature of Persons and Personal Identity

All three parts of the book by Perry

FINAL EXAM: in the period May 13-19

General Background Readings:

S. Guttenplan: *A Companion to the Philosophy of Mind*, Blackwell 1994
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu>, sections in encyclopedia on topics covered.