

Philosophy of Psychology

PHIL 202, Fall 2008

M/W/F 12:00–12:50, LCA003

Instructor: Colin Klein
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Office: 1420 University Hall
Office Hours: Monday 10-12, and by appointment.
Course Reference Number: 23132

Course Description

This course will introduce you to core issues in the philosophy of psychology. For the first third of the course, we will examine traditional philosophical positions on the relationship between minds and bodies. We will then turn to the possibility that psychology might revise or overturn our everyday theories of mind. We will conclude by examining in detail some methodological issues for theory testing in psychology.

Texts

- David Armstrong *The Mind-Body Problem: An Opinionated Introduction*.
- Peter Kramer *Listening to Prozac* (Revised 1997 edition)
- Course Packet

All three items will be available at the University bookstore.

Assignments

- Four take-home *Quizzes* each worth 20% of your final grade, for a total of 80%. Take-home quizzes will be assigned on Friday, and due by the start of class on the following Monday. Five quizzes will be offered; if all five are taken, the highest four grades will count towards your final grade.
- *Reading assignments*: A one-page assignment on a topic from the reading. The topic will be assigned on Monday, and the paper will be due in class on Friday. Each will be worth 1% of your final grade, for a total of 12%.
- *Attendance and Participation*: You will be expected to attend class well-prepared and ready to discuss the readings. Attendance and participation will count for 8% of your final grade.

More detail on each assignment will be provided as the semester progresses.

Additional Policies

- Late reading assignments will not be accepted. Late quizzes will lose 1/2 letter grade per day late.
- In general, quizzes cannot be rescheduled. The only exceptions will be those required by university regulation or state law, or for documented medical emergencies. If you have a medical emergency, you should contact me as soon as possible to reschedule your quiz.
- Should a due date conflict with a religious holiday you observe, you should notify me of the date by the tenth day of the term. I will make every reasonable effort to honor the request. Should you have some other conflict, you should let me know as far in advance as possible so that we can discuss your options.
- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and will be grounds for failing the course.
- Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312-413-2183 (voice) or 312-413-0123 (TTY). If you have a disability, please notify me and the appropriate administrative offices at the beginning of the semester so that we can make accommodations for you. We will be happy to do so.

Tentative Schedule of Lecture and Readings

Week 1 *Introduction & Dualism*

8/25 Introduction
8/27-9 Armstrong Ch 2

Week 2 *Identity Theory: Introduction*

9/1 *No Class: Labor Day*
9/3-5 Armstrong Ch 6
Place "Is Consciousness a Brain Process?" [CP]

Week 3 *Identity Theory, cont'd)*

9/8-10 Smart "Sensations and Brain Processes" [CP]
Optional: Armstrong Ch 7
9/12 *No class, no assignment: I will be out of town*
9/12 *First quiz assigned, due 9/15*

Week 4 *Functionalism*

9/15-19 Putnam "The Nature of Mental States" [CP]
Armstrong Ch 9

Week 5 *Non-reductive Physicalism*

9/22-26 Fodor, excerpt from *The Language of Thought* [CP]

Week 6 *Non-reductive Physicalism*

9/29-10/3 Fodor, continued.

10/3 *Second quiz assigned, due 10/6*

Week 7 *Consciousness*

10/6-10/10 Nagel "What is it like to be a Bat?" [CP]

Week 8 *The Physicalist Response*

10/13-10/17 Armstrong Ch 10 & 11

Week 9 *Freud*

10/20-10/24 Freud "The Unconscious" and "The Sexual Life of Man" [CP]

10/24 *Third quiz assigned, due 10/27*

Week 10 *Prozac*

10/27-10/31 Kramer Introduction, Chs 1&2, and pp166-196 of Ch6

Week 11 *Prozac, cont'd*

11/3-11/5 Kramer Ch 9

11/7 *No Class, no assignment: I will be out of town*

Week 12 *Eliminative Materialism*

11/10-11/14 Churchland "Eliminative Materialism and The Propositional Attitudes" [CP]

11/14 *Fourth quiz assigned, due 11/17*

Week 13 *Responses to EM*

11/17-11/21 Armstrong, Ch8

Searle, excerpt from *Mind*

Week 14 *IATs & Arbitrariness*

11/24-11/28 Greenwald et. al. "Measuring Individual Differences..." [CP]

Blanton and Jaccard, "Arbitrary Metrics in Psychology" [CP]

11/28 *No Class, no assignment: Thanksgiving!*

Week 15 *Significance Testing*

12/1-12/5 Cohen "The Earth is Round ($p < .05$)" [CP]

Frick "The Appropriate Use of Null Hypothesis Significance Testing" [CP]

12/5 *Fifth quiz assigned, due 12/8*