

University of London BA Philosophy

Course Schedule 2001-2

Course: Philosophy of Mind

Convenor: Michael Martin

Intended audience: 2nd and 3rd Year

Undergraduates

Aims of Course:

The Philosophy of Mind course contributes to the general aims of the London Philosophy course by giving students the resources to equip them to be able to investigate the nature of mind and mental phenomena; their relation to the physical world; and how we can come to know of these phenomena.

Objectives:

Students will study for this course by means of tutorials, independent study and intercollegiate lectures. Students completing the course will have:

- (a) developed a capacity for philosophical argument about the mind and mental phenomena.
- (b) acquired a knowledge of some of the key writings about the nature of mind and our knowledge of it.
- (c) understood the nature of some central problems in the philosophy of mind
- (d) encountered and evaluated a number of attempts to solve the philosophical problems under discussion.
- (e) acquired an understanding of how problems in philosophy of mind relate to broader philosophical debates in areas of logic, metaphysics, epistemology and ethics.

(f) acquired an ability to relate the questions discussed to the work of philosophers studied on other papers.

(g) been encouraged to read with great care and reflected upon some difficult texts, as well as introductory and secondary material.

No of Lectures: 20 Back-up Classes: College tutorials

This is: an optional course.

Term 1

Lecturer Paul Snowdon (5):

Topic : Materialism

The aim of this lecture course is to consider issues raised by present-day materialism. These will include how to formulate it, what can be said in favour of it, what its difficulties are, and what alternatives there are to it.

Lecturer: Michael Martin (5 weeks)

Topic: Bodily Sensations

In this set of lectures, we shall be concerned with the nature of bodily sensation and how the existence of such phenomena bare on theories of consciousness and experience. Among the questions addressed are: Do sensations give us examples of mental objects? How are sensations related to bodily locations? Can we think of bodily sensations as examples of perception of the body?

Term 2

Lecturer: Tom Pink (5 weeks)

Topic: Action

The course will examine a variety of models of human action. Themes explored include the place of causation and normativity in understanding action, the relation between action and intention, the relation between action and self-determination.

Lecturer: Sam Guttenplan (5 weeks)

Topic: Intentionality

An introduction to the notion of intentionality and the problems it creates both for our understanding of the mind and for the project of naturalising the mental. The lectures will also take a closer look at the role of language with respect to the intentional and the relation of intentionality and consciousness.

Assessment

Students will sit a degree examination in this subject at the end of their final year. Tutorial essays will set by and delivered to college tutors.