

University of London

M.A. Philosophy of Mind 2001-2

Term 1: Classes 6 - 10

This part of the course covers: the nature of psychological states and our knowledge of them; whether there can be a science of the mind; the threat of eliminativism. We shall focus on the views of Donald Davidson, Daniel Dennett and Jerry Fodor.

Lecturer: Dr Barry C Smith (Birkbeck College)

Week 6: Tues 13 Nov

General Introduction: Folk Psychology

Recommended: 'Does Science Underwrite Our Folk Psychology?', B.C.Smith in O'Donohue and Kitchner eds. *The Philosophy of Psychology*

Week 7: Tues 20 Nov

Donald Davidson: Rational Explanation and Interpretation

Required: 'Rational Animals', D.Davidson in LePore and McLaughlin

Recommended:

'Belief and the Basis of Meaning', D.Davidson in Davidson 1984

'Psychology as Philosophy', 'Mental Events', D.Davidson in Davidson 1980

Week 8 : Tues 27 Nov

Daniel Dennett on the Intentional Stance

Required: 'Intentional Systems', D.Dennett in Dennett 1981

Recommended: 'Real Patterns', D.Dennett in *J.Phil* 1991

Week 9: Tues 4 Dec

Jerry Fodor on Belief Desire Psychology and Computational Psychology

Required: 'Introduction: Something on the State of the Art', J.Fodor in Fodor 1981

Recommended: *Psychosemantics*, J.Fodor, Ch.1 and Appendix.

*The Elm and the Expert*, J.Fodor, Ch.1

Week 10: Tues 11 Dec

Fodor, Dennett and Davidson on Scientific Psychology

Required: 'Could there be a science of rationality?', D.Davidson in *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, Vol.3 1995

'Three Kinds of Intentional Psychology', D.Dennett in Dennett 1987

'Special Sciences', J.Fodor in *RePresentations*

'Review of Stephen Schiffer's *Remnants of Meaning*' in Fodor's *A Theory of Content*

BCS 2001