

Phil 397
The Mind/Body Problem

Fall 1995

Class meeting time: T R 9:55 - 11:10 AM
Office location: Welles 107
E-mail: Liu@uno.cc.geneseo.edu

Instructor: JeeLoo Liu
Office hours: F 1- 4 PM
or by appointment
Telephone: 245-5231 (O)

**Texts: *The Mind-Body Problem*, (eds.) Warner & Szubka [Blackwell]
Mental Causation, (eds.) Heil & Mele [Oxford]**

Course description: This course will begin with the current debate on one hot issue in the philosophy of mind: the relation between mind and body. We will review some of the most recent articles written on the subject. The second half of the course will be devoted to the issue of mental causation. We will investigate whether our thought really causes our behavior, and find a plausible analysis for such a causal relation. The course will proceed as an intense study group, so everyone's reading and participation is greatly emphasized.

Prerequisite: at least one course in philosophy.

Course objectives: By the end of the semester, you should be familiar with the views of some of the most famous philosophers in the field. You are also expected to have come up with your own analysis on the issues discussed.

Grading:

Mid-term Exam	20 %
Final Exam	20 %
Weekly Homework (1-2 pages)	20 %
1 Paper (10-12 pages)	30 %
General Participation	10 %

General policies:

- (i) All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced.
- (ii) You may hand in your paper anytime that is convenient for you, **but no later than the last day of class (May 2)**. A 1/2 grade deduction will be made for each day delayed. It is strongly advised that you hand in the paper in the first two-thirds of the semester, so that you may get a chance to revise and resubmit for a new grade. You are free to choose your paper topics as long as they are related to the reading materials. **You are also encouraged to discuss your paper topic with me.**
- (iii) Homework must be handed in **on the assigned date and in person**. (Typically homework is due on a Tuesday so that you may use the weekend to work on it. But if you happen to be occupied on a particular weekend, you may also write a piece on the article **assigned for the Thursday of the same week and hand it in on that Thursday**.) Each homework should comprise both a summary of the reading material and a discussion of one particular point the author made. **Do the best you can even when you find the article too difficult to**

summarize. Homework **will** be graded **on a ten-point scale.** In the final calculation, I will dismiss the two pieces of homework with the lowest grades.

(iv) To receive a final grade for the course, all assignments must be completed.

Syllabus

<u>Date</u>	<u>Content of discussion</u>	<u>Assignments for this class</u>
T 1/23	Introduction: Philosophy of Mind	
R 1/25	Introduction: The Mind-Body Problem	None
T 1/30	Jerry Fodor: The Mind-Body Problem	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 24-40 Homework #1
R 2/1	Shoemaker: The Mind-Body Problem	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 55-60
T 2/6	Paul Churchland & Patricia Churchland: Intertheoretic Reduction	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 41-53 Homework #2
R 2/8	Fred Dretske: Mind and Brain	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 131-35
T 2/13	Joseph Owens: Psychological Externalism	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 137-53 Homework #3
R 2/15	Stephen Stich: What is a Theory of Mental Representation?	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 171-87
T 2/20	Colin McGinn: Can We Solve the Mind-Body Problem?	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 99-115 Homework #4
R 2/22	Terence Horgan: Nonreductive Materialism	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 236-41
T 2/27	Jaegwon Kim: The Myth of Nonreductive Materialism	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 242-57 Homework #5
R 2/29	LePore & Loewer: Mind Matters	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 261-71
T 3/5	John Searle: What's Wrong with the Philosophy of Mind?	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 277-96 Homework #6
R 3/7	John Foster: The Token-Identity Thesis	Read <i>Mind-Body</i> , pp. 299-310
T 3/12	Mid-term Exam	
R 3/14	Introduction: Mental Causation	None
T 3/19	Spring Break	

R	3/21	Spring Break	
T	3/26	Donald Davidson: Thinking Causes	Read <i>Mental Causation</i> , pp. 3-17 Homework #7
R	3/28	Jaegwon Kim: Can Supervenience and 'Non-Strict Laws' Save Anomalous Monism?	Read <i>Mental Causation</i> , pp. 19-26
T	4/2	McLaughlin: On Davidson's Response to the Charge of Epiphenomenalism	Read <i>Mental Causation</i> , pp. 27-40 Homework #8
R	4/4	Ernest Sosa: Davidson's Thinking Causes	Read <i>Mental Causation</i> , pp. 41-50
T	4/9	Robert Audi: Mental Causation	Read <i>Mental Causation</i> , pp. 53-74 Homework #9
R	4/11	Fred Dretske: Mental Events as Structuring Causes of Behavior	Read <i>Mental Causation</i> , pp. 121-136
T	4/16	Tyler Burge: Mind-Body Causation and Explanatory Practice	Read <i>Mental Causation</i> , pp. 97-120 Homework #10
R	4/18	Jennifer Hornsby: Agency and Causal Explanation	Read <i>Mental Causation</i> , pp. 162-185
T	4/23	Robert Van Gulick: Who's In Charge Here?	Read <i>Mental Causation</i> , pp. 233-256 Homework #11
R	4/25	Jackson & Pettit: Some Content is Narrow	Read <i>Mental Causation</i> , pp. 259-282
T	4/30	Ernest Sosa: Abilities, Concepts, and Externalism	Read <i>Mental Causation</i> , pp. 309-324 Homework #12
R	5/2	Conclusion	

FINAL EXAM: May 9 (Thursday) 12:00 - 3:00 PM