

Course Syllabus  
**PHIL 351: *Philosophy of Mind***  
UW Milwaukee, Fall 2008  
5:00 - 6:15 PM, CRT 309

**Course Description:** Philosophy of Mind is concerned with the nature of mind and thought. Some of its questions are: What is the mind? How does it fit into the rest of the universe? How can one tell that another has a mind? What is it to think? Could a machine think? When one thinks, what is it that one is thinking? How does thought relate to perception and action? Although we will begin by reading some foundational texts in the history of Western philosophy, the majority of our time will be spent reading contemporary philosophers. By the end of the term, students will have solid foundation in one of the most fundamental areas of philosophy.

**Required Text:** *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, David Chalmers, ed., Oxford University Press, 2002. Available at People's Book Cooperative, located at 2122 E. Locust St.

**Instructor:** Aaron Schiller, schillea@uwm.edu; OH: M 11-12, W 2-3 and by appointment, CRT 623.

**Grading:** The final course grade will be out of 1000 points and breaks down as follows:

Forum Participation	200 points
Reply Paper	200 points
First Draft of Conference Paper	200 points
Final Draft of Conference Paper	400 points

**Forum Participation:** Using the course's D2L site, discussion forums have been set up for the course topics (as found on course schedule below). All students are expected to contribute at least 7 significant posts to the discussion forums as well as 7 short replies. By "significant post," I mean either a post that starts a new topic of discussion of philosophical interest or a thoughtful reply to someone else's topic. Short replies are, e.g., quick answers to someone's request for a research lead or a quick interpretative issue. Of course, there are no hard and fast distinctions here. Students who do not get credit for a post and do not know why are encouraged to contact me and we can discuss it. Also note that you can only get credit for 1 significant post and 1 short reply in any given week. This is to encourage sustained use of the discussion boards over the course of the semester. Each post is worth 14.29 points, for a total of 200 posts after all 14 are completed.

**Reply Paper:** The Reply Paper should be around 1500 words (usually about 5-6 double-spaced pages) and consist mainly of a reply to one of the course readings. The goal of this paper will be to clearly lay out the argument of one of the course readings and to offer an analysis and reply to it. I will supply a list of topics for this assignment.

**Conference Paper:** The Conference Paper should be around 3000 words (usually 10-12 pages) and be a development of some issue raised in the course readings. Given the longer length, you should be able to consider the views of numerous philosophers on some issue, present your own constructive thoughts, as well as consider and respond to possible lines of objections to your position. The goal of the assignment is to write a work of philosophy suitable for presentation at an undergraduate philosophy conference. Topics will not be supplied, so students are encouraged to meet with me to discuss their ideas.

**In-Class Participation:** There are no formal in-class participation points. But students who are on the line between grades at the end of the semester and have a history of regularly contributing to classroom discussions will have their grades bumped to the higher grade.

**Course Schedule:**

Meeting	Topic
9/3	Intro to Course
9/8	<b>Dualism:</b> Descartes, <i>Meditations 2 and 5</i> and <i>Passions</i>
9/10	Huxley, "On the Hypothesis..." and Smullyan, "An Unfortunate Dualist"
9/15	<b>Behaviorism:</b> Ryle, "Descartes' Myth"
9/17	Carnap, "Psychology in Physical Language"
9/22	Putnam, "Brains and Behavior"
9/24	<b>Identity Theory:</b> Place, "Is Consciousness a Brain Process?"
9/29	Smart, "Sensations and Brain Process" [Reply Paper Topics Handed Out]
10/1	<b>Functionalism:</b> Putnam, "The Nature of Mental States"
10/6	Armstrong, "The Causal Theory of the Mind"
10/8	Block, "The Trouble With Functionalism"
10/13	<b>Emergentism:</b> Broad, "Mechanism ..." [Reply Paper Due in Class]
10/15	<b>Anomalous Monism:</b> Davidson, "Mental Events"
10/20	<b>Supervenience:</b> Horgan, "From Supervenience to Superdupervenience"
10/22	Jackson, "Finding the Mind in the Natural World"
10/27	<b>Consciousness:</b> Block, "Concepts of Consciousness"
10/29	Nagel, "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?"
11/3	Dennett, "Quining Qualia"
11/5	Chalmers, "Consciousness and Its Place in Nature"
11/10	Chalmers cont. [First Draft of Conference Paper Due in Class]
11/12	<b>The Knowledge Argument:</b> Jackson, "Epiphenomenal Qualia"
11/17	Lewis, "What Experience Teaches"
11/19	Loar, "Phenomenal States"
11/24	<b>The Modal Argument:</b> Kripke, sel. from <i>Naming and Necessity</i> & Hill, "Imaginability..."
11/26	<b>University Holiday (Happy Thanksgiving!)</b>
12/1	<b>The Explanatory Gap:</b> Levine, "Materialism and Qualia: The Explanatory Gap"
12/3	Churchland, "Rediscovery of Light"
12/8	McGinn, "Can We Solve the Min-Body Problem"
12/10	Course Review
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*Note that this is subject to change at the instructor's discretion, but that every attempt will be made to stay on schedule.*