



# PHL 262

## Body and Mind

S1 External 2015

*Dept of Philosophy*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lecturer

Melanie Rosen

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W6A730

On request

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

12cp or admission to GDipArts

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores the relationship between the body and the mind. It introduces students to the central issues in contemporary philosophy of mind, focusing on the issue of whether the mind can be incorporated into the scientific picture of the world. The first part of the unit consists of a survey of competing philosophical theories of the mind: dualism, behaviourism, the identity theory, and functionalism. The second half consists of a discussion of some topical issues in contemporary philosophy of mind and cognitive science. What is the nature of phenomenal (subjective) experience? Is a physical theory of consciousness possible? Is there a language of thought? If so, what is its nature? How do mental states represent the world? Does neurophysiology show us that common sense psychology is scientifically dispensable?

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Demonstrate an awareness of central problems in Philosophy of Mind

Understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literature

Critically evaluate these theories and arguments

Develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views

and arguments presented in the unit, and to present your own views with clarity and rigour

Develop clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Online quizzes	20%	Weeks 2-11
Essay exam	25%	22/4/15
Final Essay	35%	5/6/15
Participation	20%	Weeks 1-12

### Online quizzes

Due: **Weeks 2-11**

Weighting: **20%**

There will be a quiz on the assigned reading/previous due each week before 2pm Monday. Each quiz will consist of one short answer question. The quiz will be accessible on iLearn from the preceding Friday. You will have 10 minutes to answer the quiz once you begin; after 10 minutes, your answer will be saved. You get graded /10 for the number of quizzes you complete (all quizzes get 10, -1 mark for each quiz missed), and then 10 marks from 5 randomly graded answers. These quizzes will be graded either 0 (did not complete), 1 (adequate), or 2 (exceptional).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of central problems in Philosophy of Mind
- Understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- Develop clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition.

### Essay exam

Due: **22/4/15**

Weighting: **25%**

The first essay exam will cover materials from week one to six. It will require answering three questions with short 500-word essays. The exam will be assigned on 1/4/15 and be due by 2pm on 22/4/15.

Essays will be submitted using "Turnitin" through the unit iLearn site.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of central problems in Philosophy of Mind
- Understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- Critically evaluate these theories and arguments
- Develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and to present your own views with clarity and rigour
- Develop clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition.

## Final Essay

Due: **5/6/15**

Weighting: **35%**

The final essay will require answering one research question with a max of 2000 words. Due by 5pm on 5/6/15.

Essays will be submitted using "Turnitin" through the unit iLearn site

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of central problems in Philosophy of Mind
- Understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- Critically evaluate these theories and arguments
- Develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and to present your own views with clarity and rigour
- Develop clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition.

## Participation

Due: **Weeks 1-12**

Weighting: **20%**

Students should be active and participate online in message boards on iLearn. That means students need to study the weekly readings, ask questions about the readings and respond to other students' questions online during the relevant week. Online participation constitutes 20% of the overall grade. Students will be marked on the regularity and quality of their message posts.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of central problems in Philosophy of Mind

- Understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- Critically evaluate these theories and arguments
- Develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and to present your own views with clarity and rigour
- Develop clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition.

## Delivery and Resources

### CLASSES

External students will listen to 2 iLectures each week. They will be available through Echo recording on iLearn.

### READING

There is a mandatory unit reader. You must also get a copy of Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy* (The Hackett edition, ISBN 0872201929, is available at the co-op bookshop but similar versions are available online).

You may optionally purchase Pete Mandik's *This is Philosophy of Mind*, which will provide supplementary background reading for several weeks.

The week's readings are listed on this unit guide and will also be listed each week on iLearn. Readings should be done before the first lecture of the week. You should bring the weeks' reading material to both lecture and tutorial.

### WEBSITE

The unit website is available through iLearn (<http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>). It contains essential resources for the unit, and you are expected to log in on a regular basis.

## Unit Schedule

Week 1: Introduction	Descartes, Meditation 1
Week 2: Dualism & its Problems	Descartes, Meditation 6 Mandik, Ch2
Week 3: Behaviorism	Ryle, excerpt from <i>The Concept of Mind</i> Fodor, excerpt 1 from <i>The Language of Thought</i> Mandik Ch5

<b>Week 4: Identity Theory</b>	Smart "Sensations and Brain Processes" Mandik Ch6
<b>Week 5: Functionalism</b>	Putnam "The Nature of Mental States" Mandik Ch 8
<b>Week 6: Cognitivism</b>	Pinker "Rules of Language" Simon "What is an 'Explanation' of Behavior?"
<b>Week 7: Computation &amp; Mind</b>	Turing "Computing Machinery and Intelligence" Searle "Can Computers Think?" Mandik Ch7
<b>Week 8: Nonreductive Physicalism</b>	Fodor, excerpt 2 from <i>The Language of Thought</i> Mandik Ch9
<b>Week 9: Consciousness</b>	Jackson "Epiphenomenal Qualia" Chalmers "The Puzzle of Conscious Experience" Mandik Ch14 (to p206)
<b>Week 10: Consciousness and the Brain</b>	Nagel "Brain Bisection and the Unity of Consciousness"
<b>Week 11: Neuropsychology</b>	Parkin, excerpt from <i>Explorations in Cognitive Neuropsychology</i> Ramachandran "The Unbearable Likeness of Being"
<b>Week 12: Review</b>	

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be

imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Critically evaluate these theories and arguments
- Develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and to present your own views with clarity and rigour
- Develop clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Essay exam
- Final Essay
- Participation

## **Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative**

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and to present your own views with clarity and rigour
- Develop clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Essay exam
- Final Essay
- Participation

## **Commitment to Continuous Learning**

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue



knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate an awareness of central problems in Philosophy of Mind
- Understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- Critically evaluate these theories and arguments
- Develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and to present your own views with clarity and rigour
- Develop clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Essay exam
- Final Essay

## **Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills**

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate an awareness of central problems in Philosophy of Mind
- Understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- Critically evaluate these theories and arguments
- Develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and to present your own views with clarity and rigour

## **Assessment tasks**

- Online quizzes

- Essay exam
- Final Essay
- Participation

## Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an awareness of central problems in Philosophy of Mind
- Understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- Critically evaluate these theories and arguments
- Develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and to present your own views with clarity and rigour
- Develop clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition.

### Assessment tasks

- Online quizzes
- Essay exam
- Final Essay
- Participation

## Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Understand and analyse arguments in the relevant literature
- Critically evaluate these theories and arguments

- Develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and to present your own views with clarity and rigour
- Develop clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition.

## Assessment tasks

- Essay exam
- Final Essay

## Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Critically evaluate these theories and arguments
- Develop your own view or perspective through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and to present your own views with clarity and rigour
- Develop clarity of thought; clarity of verbal expression; clarity of written expression and exposition.

## Assessment tasks

- Online quizzes
- Essay exam
- Final Essay
- Participation

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
16/02/2015	Changed lectures from 13 weeks to 12, and tutorials from 12 weeks to 10, as requested. Changed final assignment from "essay exam" to "research essay"