PHL 262
Body and Mind
S1 External 2017
Dept of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Richard Heersmink
jan.heersmink@mq.edu.au

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
(12cp at 100 level or above) 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? What is consciousness? Is a physical theory of consciousness possible? What is the role of the body in cognitive processes?

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:

- Learn basic theories and approaches in philosophy of mind
- Learn to verbally express your opinion and interpretations of philosophical readings
- Learn to close-read and evaluate a philosophical text
- Learn to write an argument and essay
### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 4, 8, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Tutorial participation

**Due:** Throughout  
**Weighting:** 15%

Each week, external students have to write a 200 words summary of the weekly readings. This is to replace the tutorials of the internal students, and is meant to ensure consistent engagement with the course material.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Learn basic theories and approaches in philosophy of mind
- Learn to verbally express your opinion and interpretations of philosophical readings
- Learn to close-read and evaluate a philosophical text

#### Online quizzes

**Due:** Week 4, 8, 12  
**Weighting:** 15%

Three short online quizzes (10 multiple choice questions) in which you answer a number of questions. The quizzes are due in week 4, 8 and 12.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Learn basic theories and approaches in philosophy of mind
- Learn to close-read and evaluate a philosophical text

#### First essay

**Due:** Week 8  
**Weighting:** 30%

You will write a short 1500 word essay on one of the topics discussed during the first half of the course. These topics include Cartesian dualism, behaviorism, functionalism, identity theory, and nonreductive physicalism. In week 8, we'll discuss the outcome of the essays during class,
providing elaborate feedback on your essay such that you can incorporate common mistakes in your second essay. Your essay should be submitted online via Turnitin.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Learn basic theories and approaches in philosophy of mind
- Learn to close-read and evaluate a philosophical text
- Learn to write an argument and essay

Final essay
Due: Week 13
Weighting: 40%

You will write a 2000 word essay on one of the topics discussed during the second half of the course. These topics include consciousness, situated cognition, embodied cognition, extended and distributed cognition. Your essay should be submitted online via Turnitin.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Learn basic theories and approaches in philosophy of mind
- Learn to close-read and evaluate a philosophical text
- Learn to write an argument and essay

Delivery and Resources

Additional resources will be uploaded on iLearn

Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course introduction</td>
<td>Heil ch 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cartesian dualism</td>
<td>Heil ch 2 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Behaviorism</td>
<td>Heil ch 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Identity theory</td>
<td>Heil ch 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Functionalism</td>
<td>Heil ch 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nonreductive physicalism</td>
<td>Heil ch 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Consciousness</td>
<td>Heil ch 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Representational theory of mind</td>
<td>Heil ch 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


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/](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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the **Acceptable Use of IT Resources 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**

- Learn to verbally express your opinion and interpretations of philosophical readings
- Learn to close-read and evaluate a philosophical text
- Learn to write an argument and essay

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial participation
- Online quizzes
- First essay
- Final essay

**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 outcome**

- Learn to write an argument and essay

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial participation
- Online quizzes

**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**

- Learn basic theories and approaches in philosophy of mind
- Learn to close-read and evaluate a philosophical text
- Learn to write an argument and essay

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*Unit guide* PHL 262 Body and Mind

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/77645/unit_guide/print


**Assessment tasks**

- First essay
- 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**

- Learn basic theories and approaches in philosophy of mind
- Learn to verbally express your opinion and interpretations of philosophical readings
- Learn to close-read and evaluate a philosophical text
- Learn to write an argument and essay

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial participation
- Online quizzes
- First essay
- Final essay

**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**

- Learn basic theories and approaches in philosophy of mind
- Learn to verbally express your opinion and interpretations of philosophical readings
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Assessment tasks

• Tutorial participation
• Online quizzes
• First essay
• Final essay

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

• Learn to verbally express your opinion and interpretations of philosophical readings
• Learn to close-read and evaluate a philosophical text
• Learn to write an argument and essay

Assessment tasks

• Tutorial participation
• Online quizzes
• First essay
• 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

• Learn to verbally express your opinion and interpretations of philosophical readings
• Learn to write an argument and essay

Assessment tasks

• Tutorial participation
• First essay
• Final essay