

## Philosophy of Mind Tutorials (Hilary 2021)

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*General Instructions:* Essays should not exceed 2500 words and must be emailed to me in .doc format to no later than 24 hours before the tutorial. Weekly essay questions are included. Where there are multiple questions, choose *one*. Please come to tutorials with all readings mastered. If you would like further readings, email me.

*Materials:* Here is a dropbox link with almost all of the readings:

- <https://tinyurl.com/y632geq5>

If you can't find something here, online, or in the library, let me know.

I strongly advise you to read the papers each week *in the order that they appear in this document*.

*Tip:* Articles in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy provide overviews of topics that are often useful. The SEP tends to focus on surveying the literature. The IEP is often less comprehensive but better at explaining views and arguments. For every topic we will cover, it will be useful to read the relevant SEP and IEP entries, where they exist.

*Other Stuff:* I expect you've already been directed to at least one of these already, but just in case, here are three very useful links:

1. <https://tinyurl.com/retc4>
2. <https://tinyurl.com/y45bmf4b>
3. <https://tinyurl.com/y3h3h5ha>

*Note:* This syllabus is provisional; we may decide to modify it as the term progresses.

### WEEK 1: IDENTITY THEORY

Essay Questions:

- Is the mind identical to the brain?

Readings:

- Heil, J. – *Philosophy of Mind: A Contemporary Introduction* Chapters 1-3
- Kim, J. – “Mind as Brain” (*Philosophy of Mind*, Chapter 4)
- Smart, J. – “Sensations and Brain Processes”
- Kripke, S. – *Naming and Necessity*, Lecture 3

### WEEK 3: FUNCTIONALISM

#### Essay Questions:

- ‘We could be made out of Swiss cheese, and it wouldn’t matter’ (Putnam). Is this true?
- Is the mind software running on brain hardware?

#### Readings:

- Heil, J. – *Philosophy of Mind: A Contemporary Introduction* Chapter 6
- Putnam, H. – “The Nature of Mental States” (also published as “Psychological Predicates”)
- Block, N. – “Troubles with Functionalism” (excerpt in Chalmers, D. (ed.) *Philosophy of Mind: Classic and Contemporary Readings*)
- Searle, J. – “Minds, Brains, and Programs”

### WEEK 5: CONSCIOUSNESS

#### Essay Questions:

- Are there any interesting differences between propositional attitudes and experiences?
- What difficulties does consciousness create for the theory of mind?

#### Readings:

- Chalmers, D. – *The Conscious Mind*, Chapter 1 (“Two Concepts of Mind”)
- Nagel, T. – “What’s it like to be a bat?”
- Jackson, F. – “Epiphenomenal Qualia”
- Chalmers, D. – “Consciousness and its place in nature”

### WEEK 7: SELF-KNOWLEDGE

#### Essay Questions:

- Could you be in pain without knowing it?
- 'If someone asks me "Do you think there's going to be a third world war?" I must attend, in answering him, to precisely the same outward phenomena as I would attend to if I were answering the question "Will there be a third world war?" (Evans). Discuss.

Readings:

- Williamson, T. – *Knowledge and Its Limits*, Chapter 4
- Srinivasan, A. – "Are We Luminous?"
- Byrne, A. – "Introspection"
- Schwitzgebel, E. – "The Unreliability of Naïve Introspection"