Phil 10174
TOPICS IN MIND AND COGNITION
M 15.10-16.00, David Hume Tower LG11
T 12.10-13.00, 7 George Square F21

Instructor: Dr. Indrek Reiland
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Course Description:
In this course we will study the mind. We will begin by taking a tour through historically influential views of the mind and getting acquainted with the currently dominant theory of the mind as a computer. In the second and third part of the course we will look at recent work on intentionality and representation, and consciousness. As a result you will gain a broad overview of the sort of work done in contemporary philosophy of mind and the ability to critically engage with it.

Assignments and Grading:

• Participation in Tutorials
  - You have to write 5 short reading responses
  - Worth 5% of the final grade

• Midterm Essay
  - 1500 Words
  - Worth 35% of the final grade

• Final Essay
  - 2500 Words
  - Worth 60% of the final grade

Readings:

• The textbook for the course will be Tim Crane’s, *The Mechanical Mind*, 3rd. Ed, 2015
• Two other good books for background reading are John Heil’s, *The Philosophy of Mind* 3rd. Ed, 2013, and Andy Clark’s *Mindware*, 2nd. Ed, 2014
• It is always useful to read the relevant overview article from *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
• Essential readings for each week are marked in **bold** and must be read in preparation for the seminar and tutorials
• The other readings are recommended, but some of them are required in order to write an essay on that week’s topic
Schedule:

Mind as a Computer

W1, 14.01, 15.01: *The Marks of the Mental*
Crane, Ch. I-3
Burge “Perception: Where Mind Begins”

W2, 21.01, 22.01: *From Dualism to Functionalism*
Crane, Ch. 4-5
Maley & Piccinini “Get the Latest Upgrade: Functionalism 6.3.1”
Heil, Ch. 2-6

W3, 28.01, 29.01: *Computers and Artificial Intelligence*
Crane, Ch. 6-7
Heil, Ch. 7
Clark, Ch. 1-2
Haugeland “What is Mind Design?” from his *Mind Design II*, MIT, 1997

W4, 4.02, 5.02: *The Representational Theory of Mind and the Language of Thought*
Crane, Ch. 8
Schneider “Language of Thought”
Fodor *The Mind Doesn’t Work That Way*, Ch. 1, 2
Katz & Schneider “Rethinking the Language of Thought”
Rescorla “Computational Modeling of the Mind: What Role for Mental Representation?”

Intentionality & Representation

W5, 11.02, 12.02: *Information and Teleology*
Crane, Ch. 9
Dretske “Misrepresentation”
Millikan “Biosemantics”
Brown “A Furry Tile About Mental Representation”

W6, 17.02, 18.02: Flexible Learning Week, NO CLASSES
W7, 25.02, 26.02: Sensation and Perception

Orlandi “Beyond Misrepresentation”, Ch. 3.3 in her The Innocent Eye, OUP, 2014
Clark “Feature-Placing and Proto-Objects”
Crane, Ch. 10-11
Fodor “Do Paramecia Have Mental Representations?”

W8, 4.03, 5.03: Reference and Thought

Fodor & Pylyshyn “Reference Within the Perceptual Circle” Ch. 4 in their Minds without Meanings, MIT, 2014
Burge “Steps towards Origins of Propositional Thought”
Crane, Ch. 12
Fodor & Pylyshyn “Reference Beyond the Perceptual Circle”, Ch. 5 in Minds without Meanings
Burge “Origins of Perception”

W9, 11.03, 12.03: Animal Thought

Beck “Why Can’t We Say What Animals Think?”
Beck “Do Animals Engage in Conceptual Thought?”
Rescorla “Maps in the Head”
Beck “Do Nonhuman Animals Have a Language of Thought?”

Consciousness

W10, 18.03, 19.03: The Problems of Consciousness

Crane, Ch. 13
Block “Some Concepts of Consciousness
Burge “Reflections on Two Kinds of Consciousness” in his Foundations of Mind, OUP, 2007

W11, 25.03, 26.03: Biological, Functionalist, and Higher Order Views

Block “Comparing the Major Theories of Consciousness”
Baars & Alonzi “The Global Workspace Theory” in
Rosenthal “Higher-Order Theories of Consciousness” in
Gennaro “Representational Theories of Consciousness” in

W12, 1.04, 2.04: Representationalist Views and the Question of Reduction

Pautz “Representationalism about Consciousness”
Pautz “Experiences are Representations: An Empirical Argument”
Pautz “The Significance Argument for the Reducibility of Consciousness”