

**Professor Elisabeth Camp**

*Office:* 426 Logan Hall

*Office Hours:* Mondays 11-12:30, and by appointment

*Email:* [campe@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:campe@sas.upenn.edu)

**TAs:** Javier Guillot: [jguillot@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jguillot@sas.upenn.edu)

Reed Winegar: [winegar@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:winegar@sas.upenn.edu)

**Texts:** Coursepack, at Campus Copy Center, 3907 Walnut Street

All handouts, plus paper topics and study questions, will be posted on Blackboard.

**Course Description:**

In this course, we will investigate the nature of the human mind from a philosophical perspective. We will do this by contrasting our mental lives with the cognitive activities of non-human animals and with the operations of computers. Do either animals or computers have beliefs, desires, and experiences? If they do, do they also have the same ethical rights and responsibilities as humans? If they don't, does this cast any doubt on the reality of our own mental lives?

**Course Requirements:**

- Two short papers, 4-5 pages (25% each of course grade).
- A final paper, 8-10 pages (35% of course grade).
- Daily readings: you should have done the assigned reading *before* the class at which we'll be discussing it, and bring the coursepack with you to class.
- Attendance and participation in lecture and section (15% of course grade).  
This includes posting weekly on Blackboard (see below).

I will post study questions on Blackboard at the beginning of each week. These are intended to help guide you through the readings, and they'll give you some sense for where we'll be heading. You are expected to post a response to one of these questions on the Blackboard discussion board *before* section each week.

If you must miss either lecture or discussion, you should make up the absence by writing a short response (1-2 paragraphs) to a question about the material discussed that day.

Except in extreme conditions, extensions on papers must be granted well before the due date, and only at our discretion; otherwise, late papers will be downgraded 1/3 letter grade per day.

You are expected to be familiar with and to abide by Penn's policy on academic and intellectual integrity: <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html>.

Here are some useful online resources for philosophy of mind, and philosophy more generally:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu>

Dictionary of Philosophy of Mind: <http://philosophy.uwaterloo.ca/MindDict/>

David Chalmers' bibliography of Philosophy of Mind: <http://consc.net/biblio.html>

## Schedule of Topics and Readings

(subject to revision: check Blackboard for updates)

### Approaches to the Mind

#### *Rationalism and Empiricism*

- Wed 9/9 Introduction  
 Mon 9/14 Descartes: Meditation 2; *Discourse on the Method* (excerpt)  
 Locke: *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (excerpt)  
 Hume: *Treatise on Human Understanding* (excerpt)

#### *Behaviorism and Computationalism*

- Wed 9/16 Ryle: "Descartes' Myth"  
 Watson: "Psychology as the Behaviorist Views It"  
 Mon 9/21 Turing: "Computing Machinery and Intelligence"  
 Block: "The Mind as the Software of the Brain" §1  
 Wed 9/23 Fodor: "Why There Still Has to Be a Language of Thought"  
 Mon 9/28 Block: "The Mind as the Software of the Brain" §§2, 3  
 Wed 9/30 Marr: *Vision*, ch. 1

### Can Machines Think?

#### *Objections to the Mind as a Computer*

- Mon 10/5 Searle: "Minds, Brains, and Programs"  
 Block: "The Mind as the Software of the Brain" §4  
 Wed 10/7 Dennett: "Brain Writing and Mind Reading"  
 Mon 10/12 Mueller: "How Computer Chess Programs Are Changing the Game"  
 Dennett: "Can Machines Think?"  
 Wed 10/14 Dennett: "True Believers"

#### **First Paper Topics Handed Out**

- Mon 10/19 **NO CLASS: Fall Break**

#### *Qualia and Consciousness*

- Wed 10/21 Lewis: "Mad Pain and Martian Pain" (including Postscript)  
 Mon 10/26 Jackson: "What Mary Didn't Know"  
**First Papers due**  
 Wed 10/28 Chalmers: "Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness"  
 Mon 11/2 Weiskrantz: "Some contributions of neuropsychology of vision and memory to the problem of consciousness"  
 Owen et al: "Detecting Awareness in the Vegetative State"  
 Groopman: "Silent Minds"

## **Can Animals Think?**

### *Animal Experience*

Wed 11/4 Nagel: "What is it Like to be a Bat?"

Mon 11/9 Akins: "A Bat without Qualities"

### **Second Paper Topics Handed Out**

### *Animal Thoughts and Human Thoughts*

Wed 11/11 Dretske: "If You Can't Make One, You Don't Know How It Works";  
"The Nature of Thought" (excerpt)

Mon 11/16 Malcolm: "Thoughtless Brutes"

Wed 11/18 Davidson: "Rational Animals"

Mon 11/23 McGeer and Pettit: "The Self-Regulating Mind"

### **Second Papers due**

Wed 11/25 Tomasello: "Chimpanzees Understand Psychological states – The Question is  
Which Ones and to What Extent"

Povinelli: "Chimpanzee Minds: Suspiciously Human?"

Mon 11/30 Putnam: "The Meaning of 'Meaning'" (excerpt)

Wed 12/2 Burge: "Individualism and the Mental" (excerpt)

## **The Mind in the World**

Mon 12/7 Clark and Chalmers: "The Extended Mind"

Brooks: "The Outsourced Mind"

Bach-y-Rita & Kercel: "Sensory Substitution and the Human-Machine Interface"

Wed 12/9 Conclusion

### **Final Paper Topics Handed Out**

Wed 12/21 **Final Papers Due**