

Philosophy of Mind
Schedule
Spring 2025
Prof. McCormick
Monday, Wednesday
12:00-1:15, DH 110
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Week, Topic, and Lectures	Readings	Quizzes and Tests
Week of Jan. 20: Class meets Wednesday, Jan. 22 in DH 110 12:00-1:15 Introduction to Philosophy of Mind Required: Video lectures: Mind Basics Consciousness: Divide and Conquer, part 1 Consciousness: Divide and Conquer, part 2 Slides: Mind Basics Intro Divide and Conquer Background (not required): Bisson, Terry: They Are Made Out of Meat	Read the Syllabus Study Video Lectures	
Week of Jan. 27: Introduction continued. Consciousness and Sentience: Who Has It? <i>Bugs</i> <i>Non-Human Animals</i> <i>Invertebrates</i> Background (not required): Intelligence: Humans vs Ants in problems solving.	Required: Read Birch Chapter 1: A Walk Along the Edge Chapter 2: The Concept of Sentience Chapter 12: The Clearest Cases Chapter 13: Pushing the Boundaries Peter Godfrey Smith: Gradualism and the Evolution of Experience.	Mind Basics and Consciousness, Divide and Conquer video lectures quiz in class Wednesday, Jan. 29 (on video lectures from last week) In class assignment: come to class prepared to discuss a case of a non-human animal you're familiar with (family dog, a pigeon on the window, pet hamster, etc), apply the concepts in Birch, Chapters 1 & 2, and make an argument concerning that animals having or not having

Podcast: Jonathan Birch with Sean Carroll Ants Holding Grudges Lars Chittka: The Mind of a Bee Matilda Gibbons: Bees May Feel Pain Slides: Sentience on the Boundaries slides	Inferring Consciousness in Phylogenetically Distant Organisms Godfrey Smith The Strange World of Animal Consciousness Godfrey Smith New Yorker: Insect Pain? Background (not required): Birch's whole book: https://academic.oup.com/book/57949	some property X associated with consciousness/sentience/intelligence, etc.
Week of Feb. 3: Consciousness and Sentience: Who Has It? continued. Non-human animals continued. Same readings, and source materials as last week Slides: Gradualism Godfrey Smith	Godfrey Smith: Mind, Matter, and Metabolism	In class assignment from last week continued. Quiz on Birch 1, 2, (12), and 13, and Godfrey Smith in class, Wednesday, Feb. 3 (on required readings from last week)
Week of Feb. 10 Alien Consciousness? Required: Video lectures: Schneider Against Alien Consciousness Schwitzgebel in Favor of Alien Consciousness Slides: Schneider Slides Schwitzgebel Slides	Required: It May Not Feel Like Anything to be an Alien, Susan Schneider Three Arguments for Alien Consciousness, Eric Schwitzgebel	Alien Consciousness quiz in class, Monday, Feb. 10 (on video lectures and readings from this week)
Week of Feb. 17 Sentient Machines? Required: Video lecture:	Background (not required): Consciousness in AI: Insights from the Science of Consciousness, Butlin, et. al.	Chalmers Reading Quiz on Chalmers on Monday, Feb. 17 (on video lecture/reading from this week)

David Chalmers: Are LLMs Sentient lecture at NYU The same talk in essay form: Could a Large Language Model be Conscious? David Chalmers: Does Thought Require Sensory Grounding? Slides: Lecture notes on Chalmers' Are LLMs Sentient? Slide Version (Spring 2025)	Turing, A.M. "Computing Machinery and Intelligence." Searle, John: "Minds, Brains, and Programs." Sam Altman on The Intelligence Age Andreessen: The Techno-Optimist Manifesto Amodei: Machines of Loving Grace Singularity Timeline Danielle Williams: AI History Timeline	
Week of Feb. 24 How Does Mind Emerge from the Brain: <i>Connectionism</i> Required: Video lecture: Neuroscience and Philosophy of Mind Video lecture: Connectionism Slides: Neuroscience and Philosophy of Mind Connectionism Short List of Phil Issues Background (not required): Chalmers: What is a Neural Correlate of Consciousness? The Halle Berry Neuron: Invariant visual representation by single neurons in the human brain	Required: Stufflebeam, Robert: "Neurons, Synapses, Action Potentials and Neurotransmission" Connectionism: An Introduction Part 1 Connectionism: An Introduction part 2 Connectionism: An Introduction, part 3 Not required: Wikipedia: Neural Correlates of Consciousness	Neuroscience and Connectionism lectures and reading quiz in class on Monday, Feb. 24
Week of March 3	Required: Jackson, Frank: Epiphenomenal Qualia	Qualia lecture and reading quiz on Monday, March 3

What are the Contents of Mind? <i>Qualia</i> Required: Video lectures: Jackson's Colorblind Mary Argument for Epiphenomenalism Nagel's Bat Argument Patricia Churchland objects to Jackson Slides: Qualia Intro Jackson's Colorblind Mary Nagel's Bat	Nagel, Thomas: What's It Like to be a Bat?	
Week of March 10 Leading Philosophical Theories of Mind: <i>Functionalism</i> Required: Lectures: Functionalism, lecture 1 Video lecture: Kinds of Functionalism The China Headed System Objection. Inverted Qualia Arguments Slides: Functionalism Slides Kinds of Functionalism Computational Functionalism	Required: Levin, Janet: Functionalism from the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy Anderson: Functionalism at the Mind Project Not required: Block, Ned: Troubles for Functionalism	Functionalism lectures and reading quiz on Monday, March 10.
Week of March 17: Midterm Review on Monday Midterm on Wednesday		Midterm Review Sheet Midterm will be in class, DH110, Wednesday, March 19. No one will be admitted after ten minutes.
Week of March 24 How Does the Mind Fit into the Natural World	Required: Chalmers, David: Consciousness and Its Place In Nature	Chalmers lecture and reading quiz in class on Monday, March 24

Video lecture: Chalmers' Consciousness and its Place in Nature, part 1 Chalmers' Consciousness and Its Place in Nature, pt. 2 Slides for Chalmers lectures		
Week of March 31 Spring Break		
April 7 Chalmers continued Arguments Against Qualia: Quining Qualia Video lectures: Dennett's Quining Qualia argument. Philosophical Zombie Arguments Dennett Slides Zombie Slides	Dennett, Daniel: Quining Qualia Chalmers, David. excerpt from The Conscious Mind in our Mind Readings Folder	Dennett Quining Qualia Reading Quiz in class on Wednesday, April 9
Week of April 14 Leading Philosophical Theory of Mind: <i>Eliminative Materialism</i> Video lectures: Eliminative Materialism I Eliminative Materialism II Slides: EM I EM II	Ramsey, Bill: "Eliminative Materialism." in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy Ramsey, Stich, and Garon: "Connectionism, Eliminativism, and the Future of Folk Psychology."	Eliminative Materialism lecture and reading quiz in class on Monday, April 14
Week of April 21 Leading Cognitive Science Theory of Consciousness: <i>Global Workspace Theory</i> Required:	Required: Dehaene and Naccache, Towards a cognitive neuroscience of consciousness: basic evidence and a workspace framework.	Global Workspace quiz on lectures and readings from this week on Monday, April 21

Video lecture: Dehaene and Naccache on Global Workspace Theory. pt. 1 Dehaene and Naccache on Global Workspace Theory. pt. 2 Slides: Dehaene and Naccache		
Week of April 28 Required: Video lectures: Prinz's AIR Theory of Consciousness: Attention part 1 Prinz's AIR Theory of Consciousness: Attention part 2 Slides for Prinz Outline for Prinz	Required reading: Prinz: Is Attention Necessary and Sufficient for Consciousness?	Prinz quiz on Monday, April 28.
Week of May 5 Required video lectures: Graziano's Attention Schema Theory Part 1 Graziano's Attention Schema Theory Part 2 Slides for Graziano Extra Notes for Graziano Wrap up, final review	Graziano: A Mechanistic Theory of Consciousness Graziano: How the Light Gets Out The Attention Schema Theory of Consciousness . Videos: Watch What is Consciousness? and Consciousness and the Social Brain Final Exam Review Sheet	Graziano reading and lecture quiz Monday, May 5 Extra Credit Quiz Points: write up 3 interesting/valuable/important things you think you learned this semester (in this class) and explain why. Write up 1-3 things that you found less interesting/important/useful, and explain why. (5-10 points) Share it in a Google Doc or email it to mccormick@csus.edu by Friday, May 9 at 11:59pm. <i>Also: Complete the online instructor review on Canvas by the end of the day Friday. If 80% or more of the class does it, everyone gets 2 additional points on quiz score total.</i>
Final: Wednesday, May 14, DH 110, 10:15-12:15		