

Programa | Course Description 2023/2024

Unidade Curricular | *Course Unit*

Filosofia da Mente

Código da Unidade Curricular | *Course ID*

FIL2.34531

ECTS | *Credits*

6

Ciclo de Estudos | *Level*

1º

Semestre | *Semester*

2º

Docente(s) | *Instructor(s)*

David Yates

Língua de ensino | *Language of instruction*

Inglês / English (but with the possibility of seminar discussions in Portuguese)

Programa (na língua de ensino) | *Course description (in language of instruction)*

We begin by examining the historical development of the mind body problem, from Cartesian Dualism, to Behaviourism, the Identity Theory, and Functionalism. We then study the problem of consciousness, focusing on contemporary arguments for property dualism. We study emergentism and panpsychism as two kinds of property dualism, and close with a discussion of the explanatory gap and its significance for artificial intelligence research. In the final part of the course, we study cognition, beginning with classical computationalism and the Chinese Room argument, then examining modern deep learning architectures and their implications for the nature of mind. We will then consider 4E cognition, which challenges the traditional idea of mind as a system of internal representational states and aims to replace it with a whole-agent model based on brain-body-environment interactions.

Avaliação (na língua de ensino) | *Grading and Assessment (in language of instruction)*

Provisionally, assessment will be based on a written examination (60%) and oral presentation (40%). For the presentations, students will be divided into groups of 3-4 whose aim will be to defend a position in relation to some aspect of the course content. It will be left up to students to decide how to share the workload so students who are particularly anxious about presenting may choose to do more work “behind the scenes” on the research side of the task. Exams and presentations may be in English or Portuguese, but not in Spanish.

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Bibliografia (selection) | Readings (selection)

All readings required for the course will be circulated via the course Moodle page. The following books are recommended:

Textbooks:

D. Braddon-Mitchell & F. Jackson (2007). *Philosophy of Mind & Cognition* 2nd ed. Blackwell.

P. Churchland (2013). *Matter and Consciousness* 3rd ed. MIT Press.

E. J. Lowe (2000). *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind*. Cambridge University Press.

Anthologies:

D. Chalmers (ed.) (2002). *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. OUP.

Guttenplan, S. (1994). *A Companion to the Philosophy of Mind*. Oxford: Blackwell.