

PH253-15 Philosophy of Mind

22/23

Department

Philosophy

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Barnaby Walker

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module provides an introduction to issues in the metaphysics and epistemology of mind.

Module aims

The principal metaphysical question is this: what must the world be like in order to make true the various claims that we make about our own and others' minds? Here we will look at various theories of the metaphysics of mind, including forms of physicalism and functionalism. We will also look at the metaphysics of perceptual experience and the relation perceptual experience provides between mind and world. This links metaphysical and epistemological issues. On the epistemological side, we will look at questions concerning our knowledge of our own and other minds.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Specific topics to be discussed will include the following: Physicalism: type and token identity theories, Functionalism, Internalism and externalism, The nature of perceptual experience, Self-knowledge, Other minds.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand, analyse and apply key theoretical approaches in contemporary philosophy of mind, and explain the issues at stake in debates between them.
- Identify and assess different argumentative strategies used in the philosophy of mind to address specific questions, and articulate central theoretical concepts that inform different answers to those questions
- Develop and defend their own judgement about competing views in philosophy of mind, and express themselves clearly and with precision
- Recognise the distinctive contributions that various quite different approaches make to philosophical argument in the philosophy of mind, and the challenge of integrating these different contributions
- Arrive at a defensible conception of the nature of philosophy of mind itself

Indicative reading list

To be confirmed

Subject specific skills

Understand, analyse and apply key theoretical approaches in contemporary philosophy of mind, and explain the issues at stake in debates between them.

Identify and assess different argumentative strategies used in the philosophy of mind to address specific questions, and articulate central theoretical concepts that inform different answers to those questions

Develop and defend their own judgement about competing views in philosophy of mind, and express themselves clearly and with precision

Recognise the distinctive contributions that various quite different approaches make to philosophical argument in the philosophy of mind, and the challenge of integrating these different contributions

Transferable skills

Ability to explain and assess abstract claims and arguments, both verbally and in writing

Enhanced critical thinking skills

Ability to understand, interpret and assess analytically complex texts

Organisational and time management skills

Research skills (e.g. independently planning and writing essays, using online resources to identify further readings)

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (12%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	124 hours (83%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group D5

	Weighting	Study time
1000 word essay	20%	
Online Examination	80%	
2 hour exam		

Assessment group D6

	Weighting	Study time
1000 word essay	20%	
Online Examination	80%	

- Answerbook Pink (12 page)

Assessment group D7

	Weighting	Study time
1000 word essay	20%	
Online Examination	80%	

- Answerbook Pink (12 page)

Feedback on assessment

Feedback on essays will be provided on the coversheet for the essay, addressing standard areas of evaluation and individual content. Students will receive written feedback on their examination answers.

[Past exam papers for PH253](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
- Year 4 of UPHA-VL79 BA in Philosophy with Psychology (with Intercalated year)

This module is Optional for:

- UHIA-V1V8 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 3 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 4 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
- UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 2 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 3 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MH Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Philosophy Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MF Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Politics Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MI Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Economics Bipartite (Philosophy Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MJ Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Politics Bipartite (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MG Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Politics/Economics Bipartite (Politics Major) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 4 of UPHA-VL79 BA in Philosophy with Psychology (with Intercalated year)
- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- UMAA-GV18 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
- UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
 - Year 3 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
 - Year 4 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Option list B for:

- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- UMAA-GV18 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 2 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 2 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
- Year 2 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)