



PHILOSOPHY OF MIND	
Enrollment year	2020/2021
Academic year	2021/2022
Regulations	DM270
Academic discipline	M-FIL/02 (LOGIC AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE)
Department	DEPARTMENT OF BRAIN AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
Course	PSYCHOLOGY, NEUROSCIENCE AND HUMAN SCIENCES
Curriculum	PERCORSO COMUNE
Year of study	2°
Period	2nd semester (01/02/2022 - 10/06/2022)
ECTS	6
Lesson hours	36 lesson hours
Language	English
Activity type	WRITTEN AND ORAL TEST
Teacher	DI FRANCESCO MICHELE (titolare) - 3 ECTS PIREDDA GIULIA - 3 ECTS
Prerequisites	There are no formal prerequisites for this class. The class is designed so as to be accessible to students with no background in philosophy. A mild familiarity with basic philosophical issues, however, while not necessary, can be helpful.
Learning outcomes	After taking this course, the student should be able to identify and analyse some key problems in philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychology, philosophy of cognitive science, and to develop basic skills of philosophical analysis and argumentation.
Course contents	The course is ideally comprised of three – strongly connected – parts. 1. The nature of mental phenomena. What is the place of the mind in the world order? Are mental phenomena ontologically on a par with physical phenomena? Is our knowledge of our 'internal' experience similar in kind with our knowledge of the external world? These

questions will be tackled by means of an introduction to philosophy of mind, essentially focused on the place of mental phenomena in the natural order, according with the philosophical tradition inaugurated by Descartes. In this connection, theoretical issues such as the nature of the psychophysical relation (dualism(s), materialistic monism(s), functionalism, eliminativism, emergentism), the problems of mental causation, the “hard problem” of consciousness, the possibility of free will will be presented and discussed.

2. Functionalism and the cognitive sciences. Mental states are conceived by functionalism as the ‘software’ of the brain. In this sense, functionalism can be considered as the ‘official’ ideology of the so called ‘classical’ cognitive science, and the starting point for a mechanical view of thought. In this part the present state and prospects of functionalism will be discussed, also in connection with philosophical issues raised by contemporary development of artificial intelligence.

3. Embodiment and 4E cognitive science The view of the mind proposed by functionalism and classical cognitive science has been criticized in the last decades as being “individualistic” and not taking into account the embodied, embedded, extended and enactive nature of cognition. The situated cognition perspective, which broadly vindicates the role of the physical, cultural and social environment in cognition, will be introduced and the several versions and theses included in it will be discussed and analysed. This will also bring the discussion toward some topic of philosophy of technology, such as the notion of cognitive artefact and the role and impact of technology in our ordinary cognitive life.

Teaching methods

Frontal lectures will be accompanied by group discussions and class exercises.

Reccomended or required readings

- Pete Mandik, 2014, This Is Philosophy of Mind: An Introduction, Wiley Blackwell.
- Ravenscroft I., 2005, Philosophy of Mind. A Beginners Guide, Oxford University Press.
- Okasha, S. 2016. Philosophy of Science, Oxford University Press, (2nd Edition)
- Lawrence Shapiro, 2019, Embodied Cognition (2nd edition), Routledge.
- Mark Cain, 2015, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Polity Press.
- Selected papers on the issues dealt with and/or instructors’ lecture slides.

Assessment methods

Written and oral exams

Further information

Some of the lecture slides will be downloadable from the dedicated website.

Sustainable development goals - Agenda 2030

[\\$ibl legenda sviluppo sostenibile](#)