



Department of Philosophy

General information		
Name of the course	Topics in Philosophy of Mind	
Course instructor	Marko Jurjako, Assistant Professor	
Study programme	Philosophy	
Status of the course	Elective	
Year of study	2022-2023	
Language	English	
ECTS credits and manner of instruction	ECTS credits	6 ECTS
	Number of class hours (Lectures + Exercises + Seminars)	30+0+0

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION
1.1. Course objectives
The objectives are to familiarize students with topics in philosophy of mind. It is for students to gain a grasp on various concepts and the way they relate to each other, as well as to gain understanding of the main theories in philosophy of mind that have been important in the development of that particular field of philosophy. Students will be introduced to dualism and mental causation, identity theory, functionalism, type and token theory of identity, consciousness and the natural world, panpsychism. They will be able to distinguish between the main theories in the philosophy of mind such as functionalism, dualism, physicalism/materialism. The students will also come to understand what the hard problem of consciousness consists in as well as numerous others interesting and enticing problems of philosophy of mind.
1.2. Course enrolment requirements and entry competences required for the course
Good command of spoken and written English. Note: This course is part of the Erasmus/YUFE module 'Interdisciplinary studies of the mind', which is jointly offered by the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Psychology for Erasmus/YUFE students (primarily Erasmus/YUFE students of philosophy, psychology, and related disciplines).
1.3. Expected course learning outcomes
Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">describe the development of the debate on the mind-body problem from Rene Descartes to contemporary functionalismexplain the physicalistic/materialistic underpinnings of contemporary approaches to the study of the minddistinguish between different types of physicalism/materialismanalyze some of the influential arguments against physicalism, especially those based on the hard problem of consciousnessrecognize the role of thought experiments in science in generalevaluate and use deductive arguments in the study of the mind

1.4. Course content

The course provides an introduction to the classical mind/body problem. Contemporary debate of the mind/body problem starts with René Descartes' arguments according to which the mind and the body are two distinct substances. In this course we will go through and evaluate some of the influential arguments in favor and against this view. The problems with Cartesian dualism led to formulations of different physicalistic or materialistic theories in philosophy of mind and scientific psychology. In this regard, we will also focus on influential arguments in favor of and against physicalistic explanations of the mind and consciousness. In particular, we will evaluate conceptual/deductive arguments and appreciate the important role thought experiments play in science and the study of the mind.

1.5. Manner of instruction

- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Individual assignments
- ✓ Mentorship
- ✓ Other: consultations