

# Philosophy of Mind

University of Rochester, Fall 2008

## Course Details

**Code:** PHL244, PHL244W, PHL444  
**Prerequisites:** One previous course in philosophy.  
**Location:** Meliora 221  
**Dates:** 3 September to 10 December.  
**Times:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30pm to 1:45pm.  
**First Paper Due:** Wednesday 31 October.  
**Second Paper Due:** Wednesday 19 December.  
**URI:** <http://mail.rochester.edu/~bweslake/teaching/2008/mind/>

## Instructor

Brad Weslake  
519 Lattimore Hall  
[bradley.weslake@rochester.edu](mailto:bradley.weslake@rochester.edu)  
<http://mail.rochester.edu/~bweslake/>  
**Office hours:** Wednesdays 2:30pm to 4:30pm, or by appointment.

## Overview

This course is an overview of the recent history of philosophy of mind, focusing on the relationship between the mind and the physical world. The aim is to trace through some of the central debates in this history, and to assess where we stand today. Topics covered include the question of how to formulate physicalism about the mind; an examination of behaviourism, the identity theory, and functionalist theories of the mind; the prospects for integrating consciousness and mental content within a physicalist worldview; and the problem of mental causation. The course may be taken for upper level writing credit.

## Assessment

Requirements:

- Ten 1-2 page weekly reading summaries. You should pick at least one of the readings for the class in question and summarise the main argument. Ideally each summary will also include a proposed question or topic for discussion, and an indication of whether there were parts of the reading that you found unclear or confusing.
- A 10-15 minute presentation, followed by discussion.
- A first 4-6 page research paper, questions to be provided.
- A second 10-12 page research paper, questions to be provided.

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Reading Summaries:	10%
Presentation:	20%
First Paper:	20%
Final Paper:	50%

Due dates:

<b>First Paper:</b>	Wednesday 22 October.
<b>Second Paper:</b>	Wednesday 10 December.
<b>Weekly Reading Summaries:</b>	Midnight, <i>two nights before each class.</i>

*Note:* Graduate students or students enrolled for upper level writing credit will be required to write longer essays. Graduate students will also be required to do additional reading and meet for an additional discussion section.

## Schedule

The reading schedule will be posted to the webpage as the course progresses.

## Textbook

Kim, Jaegwon. 2005. *Philosophy of Mind*, 2nd edition, Westview Press, Boulder CO.

The textbook is available in the campus bookstore. Note that the 2nd Edition is required—make sure you do not buy the 1st Edition.