



UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID
FACULTAD DE FILOSOFÍA

SYLLABUS: 'PHILOSOPHY OF MIND'

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INSTRUCTOR:

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Language of Instruction: English

What is the mind? The so-called body-mind problem turns problematic because of the mechanistic paradigm of modern western philosophy, science and medicine. Freud tried to map the human mind considering the importance of the unconscious. However, as a reaction to psychoanalysis, behavioralism puts aside the concept of the mind, once considered inaccessible to experimental control by this new psychology. In 1949, the Oxford professor Gilbert Ryle published *The concept of mind*. Ryle explains that body-mind dualism is unintelligible as soon as we want to think it thoroughly. This happens because such a concept is the result of a categorical or attribution error.

SEMINAR
DESCRIPTION:

Another crucial issue for the philosophy of the mind is about the fact that adult human beings usually have, after all, a theory of the mind: a kind of "kit" of beliefs about the supposed states of consciousness of others, a "kit" that draws on reflection on one's experiences and thoughts. This became problematic when in 1978 David Premack observed that chimpanzees adjusted their behavior to the moods of scientists, which made him wonder if they actually had a model of what we call "mind." Be that as it may, at present the theory of the mind requires, necessarily, the neuroscience approach but also of the philosophical critique to it.

By the end of the term, the students will:

- LEARNING
OUTCOMES OF
THIS COURSE
- Better understand the philosophical problems related to the term *Mind* and contextualize them within the history of Western thought (Philosophy, Science and Medicine).
 - Know different disciplines and contemporary authors that currently focus on Theory of Mind and Philosophy of Mind.
 - Have developed precise conceptual tools to analyze current philosophical, psychological and neuroscientific issues related to the body-mind problem.

EVALUATION

Final Exam (50%)
Dissertation topic (oral or written - to be agreed with the student) (50%)

SEMINAR
POLICIES:

Regular attendance and participation in class are mandatory

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Metzinger, T. (2009). *The ego tunnel: The science of the mind and the myth of the self*. Basic Books.
- Noë, A. (2009). *Out of our heads: Why you are not your brain, and other lessons from the biology of consciousness*. Macmillan.
- Premack, D., & Woodruff, G. (1978). "Does the chimpanzee have a theory of mind?" *Behavioral and brain sciences*. 1(4), 515-526.
- Ryle, G. (2009). *The concept of mind*. Routledge.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Churchland, P. S. (1989). *Neurophilosophy: Toward a unified science of the mind-brain*. MIT press.
- Dennett, D. C. (1993). *Consciousness explained*. Penguin.
- Eccles, J. C., & Popper, K. (2014). *The self and its brain: an argument for interactionism*. Routledge.
- Kievit, R. A., Romeijn, J. W., Waldorp, L. J., Wicherts, J. M., Scholte, H. S., & Borsboom, D. (2011). "Modeling mind and matter: Reductionism and psychological measurement in cognitive neuroscience". *Psychological Inquiry*. 22(2), 139-157.
- Robles, F. J. (1996): *Para aprehender la Psicología*. Siglo XXI de España Editores.