

PHL347: Philosophy of Mind: Syllabus: Spring 2009

PHL347

# The Philosophy of Mind

**INSTRUCTOR:** Larry Hauser

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- **Required Text:** *Consciousness, An Introduction*, by Susan Blackmore
- **Additional Readings:**
  - **Week 1:** "Zombies, *Blade Runner*, and the Mind-Body Problem" ([online](#))
  - **Week 2:** "Look Who's Moving the Goal-Posts Now" ([online](#))

**DESCRIPTION:** To wonder, for instance, whether computers *really* have mental qualities such as their seeming acts of sensing, inferring, and deciding things ordinarily would indicate, is to wonder if they're *conscious*. So many say. Yet many (including some of the same ones) acknowledge there to be such things as "unconscious mental states." So, what *is* thought, anyway? And how is it related to consciousness? How are both related to brains? And what, pray tell, is consciousness? What is it? Who has it? How do we know? How do I even know about *you*? This course considers a wide range of work (much recent, some ancient) in philosophy, psychology, computer science, and other disciplines bearing on such questions. The course culminates in a colloquium series where students present their papers.

## Grading & Assignments

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	VALUE
Participation	ongoing: online forums & classroom attendance	1/4 of course
Chapter Presentation	Week 3: e-copy or hard-copy due at time of presentation	1/4 of course
Term Paper: Abstract	Week 3: abstract (approx. 150 words) due on Friday	1/16 of course
Term Paper: First Draft	Week 4: hard-copy due at time of presentation/defense: approx. 1500 words	1/16 of course
Paper: Final Draft	Week 4: Thursday: approximately 2500 words: submit electronically	3/8 of course

# Class Colloquium

to be held May 18-19, 2009

Class regularly meets M-Tu 10-12:00 & 1-3:00 in Dow L4				
<b>Course Calendar</b>				
<i>First Class Meeting: Sunday April 26 1-3:30 p.m.</i>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><u><i>Zombies, Blade Runner, and the Mind-Body Problem</i></u></p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Section 1: The problem</b></p>	<p><b>Section 2: The World</b></p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Section 3: The Self</b></p>	<p>Online Discussion: Week 1 Forums on Moodle</p>	<p>Online Discussion: Week 1 Forums on Moodle</p>	<p><b>May 1</b></p>
<p><u><i>Look Who's Moving the Goal-posts Now</i></u></p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Section 4: Evolution</b></p>	<p><b>Section 5: Artificial Consciousness</b></p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Section 6: The Brain</b></p>	<p>Online Discussion: Week 2 Forums on Moodle</p>	<p>Online Discussion Week 2 Forums on Moodle</p>	<p><b>May 8</b></p>
<p><b>Section 7: Borderlands</b> student presentations</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Section 8: Altered States of Consciousness</b> student presentations</p>	<p><b>Section 9: First-person Approaches</b> student presentations</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Section 0: Previous Things Reconsidered</b> student presentations</p>	<p>Online Discussion: Week 3 Forums on Moodle</p>	<p>Online Discussion: Week 3 Forums on Moodle</p>	<p><b>May 15</b> <b>abstracts due: submit online</b></p>
<p><b>Colloquium I</b> topic TBA</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Colloquium II</b> topic TBA</p>	<p><b>Colloquium III</b> Topic TBA</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Colloquium IV</b> Topic TBA</p>	<p>Online Discussion Week 4 Forums on Moodle</p>	<p><b>Rewrites Due</b> submit electronically</p>	<p><b>May 22</b> <b><i>SKOOL IS OUT!!</i></b></p>

## Offsite Resources

[Duke U. Philosophy of Mind Resources](#) | [Chatbots](#)