

Course Description

Course Unit

Philosophy of Mind

UC Code

FIL2.34531

ECTS Credits

6 ECTS

Work Hours

168H (6 ECTS)

Level

BA

Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S2

Faculty

David Yates

Class

TP 1

Language of instruction

English

Class Description

We begin by examining the historical development of the mind body problem, from Cartesian Dualism, to Behaviourism, the Identity Theory, and Functionalism. We then study the problem of consciousness, focusing on contemporary arguments for property dualism. We study emergentism and panpsychism as two kinds of property dualism, and close with a discussion of the explanatory gap and its significance for artificial intelligence research. In the final part of the course, we study cognition, beginning with classical computationalism and the Chinese Room argument, then examining modern deep learning architectures and their implications for the nature of mind. We will then consider 4E cognition, which challenges the traditional idea of mind as a system of internal

representational states and aims to replace it with a whole-agent model based on brain-body-environment interactions.

Grading and Assessment

Provisionally, assessment will be based on a written examination (60%) and oral presentation (40%). For the presentations, students will be divided into groups of 2-3 whose aim will be to defend a position in relation to some aspect of the course content. It will be left up to students to decide how to share the workload. Exams and presentations may be in English or Portuguese, but not in Spanish. Full details of assessment methods and criteria will be provided during the first week of semester.

Bibliography

N/A

Prerequisites (if applicable)

N/A