

PHIL 7 – INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF MIND  
THE MYTH OF DUALISM

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UCLA, Summer Session C, 2020

Syllabus

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GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

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*Description*

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There are minds, and there are bodies. People are unions of the two. Or so says the myth of dualism. We'll pursue this myth through one important fragment of its history. Not all myths are fictions, but some are. We'll see if we're chasing a ghost.

We'll begin by surveying three approaches to the relationship between soul and body from the history of philosophy: Platonism, Aristotelianism, and Cartesianism. We'll then consider three 20th-century theories that seek to reject the historical paradigm: behaviorism, identity theory, and functionalism. We'll conclude by reflecting on an assortment of challenges to the underlying notion of an identifiable, unified, or non-illusory self.

Readings will include selections from Plato, Aristotle, Avicenna, Thomas Aquinas, Marguerite Porete, Teresa of Avila, René Descartes, Elisabeth of Bohemia, Anton Wilhelm Amo, Gilbert Ryle, Jerry Fodor, W.E.B. Du Bois, Michel de Montaigne, and Nagarjuna, among others.

*Instructor and Contact Information*

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Instructor: Milo Crimi, Dodd 363, <[mcrimi@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:mcrimi@humnet.ucla.edu)>.  
TA: TBD

When emailing, please put "PHIL 7" in the subject line. That'll help me stay organized and answer emails more quickly. I'll try to reply within one business day. If three pass, I'll be grateful for a reminder.

*Class Meetings*

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Lecture: MWF, 11:30am–12:50pm, Bunche 3178.

Discussion 2A: M, 1:30pm–2:20pm, Bunche 1265.

Discussion 2B: W, 10:30am–11:20am, Bunche 3178.

*Office Hours and Appointments*

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TBD, Dodd 363.

You don't need to contact me in advance to attend office hours. I'll be there. I encourage you to stop by. You may come prepared with specific questions about the course material, or with just a general interest in talking about the class or its content. I'm happy to discuss anything on your mind.

I'm also available by appointment. Please email me to set one up. In certain very limited cases, appointments can be conducted by video conference. Otherwise, all appointments will be held on campus, usually in Dodd 363.

Course Website

<https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/201C-PHILOS7-2>

POLICIES

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Reading and Preparation

There'll be reading due every lecture, usually about 35 pages. It's essential for success in the class that you complete the assigned reading before the lectures. The reading is dense. You must read actively, underlining/highlighting and taking notes. You should read everything more than once. Please bring the current readings with you to lecture.

I'm happy to discuss techniques for reading more effectively in office hours and appointments.

Attendance

Attendance of lectures is mandatory. Attendance will be recorded at the start of each lecture. If you have to miss a lecture due to illness or emergency, please contact me as soon as possible.

Attendance policies for discussion sections are at your TA's discretion. But I highly recommend attending all discussions.

Attendance of office hours is optional but also highly recommended.

Grading

Reading responses will be graded by me. All other assignments will be graded by your TA.

Late Work

Late reading responses will receive no credit. There'll be a grade reduction of 1/3 of a letter grade per day late for all other assignments. (For example, after one day late an assignment that normally would earn a B+ will receive a B. After two days late, it'll receive a B-, and so on.) If you have to submit work late due to illness or emergency, please contact me or your TA as soon as possible.

Extensions or incompletes will be granted only if there are serious extenuating circumstances. Extensions will be granted at your TA's discretion (in consultation with me), and incompletes will be granted at my discretion (in consultation with your TA).

Technology

During lecture, please use technology (e.g., computers, telephones, etc.) for class-related activities only. If you have to take or make a phone call, text, or email, please quietly leave the room and return when you're done. If your use of technology becomes disruptive, I may ask you to stop or leave.

Please don't take any photos or make any video or audio recordings without my explicit permission. To request permission, please talk to me outside of class.

Technology policies for discussion sections are at your TA's discretion.

### Peer Collaboration

I encourage you to discuss the course material with your fellow students outside of class. Study groups can be a fun and effective way to reinforce material – that is, so long as they stay focused. But please don't use online bulletin/message boards to collaborate. These are sometimes used for cheating and often include inaccurate information. While you may discuss the content of your written work with your fellow students, collaborative writing of assignments isn't allowed. All submitted written work must be entirely your own.

### Online Resources

While internet sources like wikipedia or youtube can be very helpful for day-to-day inquiries, they aren't reputable scholarly sources and must be avoided when researching course content. The same goes for most other internet sources, such as message boards, blogs, and chatrooms.

As alternatives, I invite you to consult the following reputable sources (while following correct academic honesty practices of course):

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP): <<https://plato.stanford.edu/>>.

The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <<https://www.iep.utm.edu/>>.

Philpapers: <<https://philpapers.org/>>.

Philosopher's Index: <<https://philindex.org/>>.

To access the content on Philpapers or Philosopher's Index, you may need to be connected to the campus wifi or use the proxy server or VPN. If you have any questions about how to do this, please let me know.

### Academic Honesty

Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty won't be tolerated. Please consult the UCLA Student Conduct Code for information on what constitutes academic dishonesty. The document is available at the following address: <<https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Individual-Student-Code>>.

Often students who violate the student conduct code and engage in academic dishonesty do so unknowingly or because they're under pressure from a rapidly approaching deadline. It's important that you understand good research and citation practices. If you have any doubt, please contact me or your TA first. It's always better to submit an assignment late and accept the late penalty than to risk an academic dishonesty investigation conducted by the Dean's office.

All written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin and reviewed by their plagiarism detection software. If Turnitin reports a high similarity index, or if there are other reasons for suspicion, your TA will conduct a preliminary investigation. If your TA sees reason to, they'll alert me of their findings. I'll then determine whether to forward the suspicion to the Dean's office, who will then conduct their own investigation. From that point forward, the Dean's office assumes all responsibility for determining culpability and administering disciplinary action.

### Accommodations

Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310)825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. More information is available at the following address: <<https://www.cae.ucla.edu/>>. I've worked with the CAE before. I'm sincerely committed to meeting requested accommodations.

## ASSIGNMENTS

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### Attendance

- Value: 15%.
- Due: Each M, W, F, during lecture.
- Description: Each lecture attended is worth 1% of the final grade, up to the maximum of 15%. There are 17 lectures. So two can be missed without penalty.

### Reading Responses

- Value: 15%.
- Due: Each M, W, F. Submitted to CCLE by 11:29am.
- Description: Two prompted short answers per reading response, posted on CCLE. 100 words max per answer = 200 words max total. Each response is worth 1% of the final grade, up to the maximum of 15%. 17 will be assigned, one per reading assignment. So two can be missed without penalty. Graded pass or no pass.

### Diagnostic Writing Assignment

- Value: 5%.
- Due: F, Aug. 7. Uploaded to Turnitin by 11:59pm.
- Description: Prompted short paper. May not use any outside sources. 750 words max. Letter grade.

### Paper 1

- Value: 30%.
- Due: F, Aug. 21. Uploaded to Turnitin by 11:59pm.
- Description: Prompted short paper. Choose one of two prompts. May not use any outside sources. 1500 words max. Letter grade.

### Paper 2

- Value: 35%.
- Due: F, Sept. 11. Uploaded to Turnitin by 11:59pm.
- Description: Unprompted short research paper. Topic must be approved by your TA in advance. Must use between one and three outside sources. All outside sources used must be approved by your TA in advance. 4000 words max. Letter grade.

Note: By an "outside source" I mean any material not among the assigned readings for the course.

## COURSE MATERIALS

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- Plato, *Phaedo*, trans. G.M.A. Grube, Hackett, 1977.
- René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, trans. D.A. Cress, Hackett, 1993.
- Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind*, University of Chicago Press, 2002.

Copies of the above – whether physical or digital – can be found very inexpensively online. There are multiple copies of each in the UCLA library system. Please let me know if there's any reason you can't get ahold of these. All other readings will be made freely available on the course website.

## SCHEDULE

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### THE GHOST, THE MACHINE, AND THE MYTH

#### Week 1

M, Aug. 3: Descartes' Myth

Rumi, "Who Says Words With My Mouth?"  
Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind*, ch. 1.

### PLATONIC DUALISM: THE DEATHLESS SOUL AND THE IMPRISONING BODY

W, Aug. 5: Philosophy as Training for Death

Plato, *Phaedo*, 57a–88b.

F, Aug. 7: The Argument from Forms

Plato, *Phaedo*, 88c–118a.

**Diagnostic writing assignment due.**

### ARISTOTELIAN DUALISM: FORM AND MATTER

#### Week 2

M, Aug. 10: Substance and Hylomorphism

Aristotle (via Alexander of Aphrodisias), *On Ideas* (selections).  
Aristotle, *Categories*, ch. 1–5.  
Thomas Aquinas, *The Principles of Nature* (selections).

W, Aug. 12: The Methodology of Psychology and the Definition of the Soul

Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on Aristotle's On the Soul*, bk. I, ch. 1, bk. II, ch. 1 (selections).  
Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, bk. I, qq. 75–76, 89 (selections).

F, Aug. 14: The Parts and Activities of the Soul

Al-Farabi, *Principles of the Beliefs*, bk. X (selections).  
Avicenna, *The Healing: Psychology* (selections).  
Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on Aristotle's On the Soul*, bk. II, ch. 2–3 (selections).  
Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, bk. I, qq. 78–79, 81, 84–85 (selections).

Week 3

M, Aug. 17: Personal Identity, Self-Awareness, and the "I"

Avicenna, *The Healing: Psychology* (selections).  
Avicenna, *Pointers and Reminders* (selections).  
Thomas Aquinas, *On Being and Essence*, ch. 1–2.  
Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, bk. I, q. 87 (selections).

W, Aug. 19: The Fate of the Soul

Al-Farabi, *Principles of the Beliefs*, bk. X (selections).  
Avicenna, *The Healing: Psychology* (selections).  
Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, bk. I, q. 88–89 (selections).  
Marguerite Porete, *The Mirror of Simple Souls* (selections).

CARTESIAN DUALISM: THOUGHT AND EXTENSION

F, Aug. 21: Meditation and Doubt

Teresa of Avila, *Interior Castle* (selections).  
René Descartes, *Meditations* 1.  
O.K. Bouwsma, "Descartes' Evil Genius."

**Paper 1 due.**

Week 4

M, Aug. 24: The Thinking Thing

René Descartes, *Meditations* 2.  
René Descartes, *Objections and Replies* (selections).

W, Aug. 26: The Mind-Body Union

René Descartes, *Meditations* 6.  
René Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy* (selections).  
René Descartes, *Objections and Replies* (selections).

F, Aug. 28: The Problem of Interaction

Elisabeth of Bohemia, *Correspondence with René Descartes* (selections).  
René Descartes, *Correspondence with Elisabeth of Bohemia* (selections).  
Baruch Spinoza, *Ethics* (selections).  
Anton Wilhelm Amo, *On the Impassivity of the Human Mind* (selections).

ANTI-DUALISM: BEHAVIORS, BRAINS, AND FUNCTIONS

Week 5

M, Aug. 31: Logical Behaviorism

Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind*, ch. 2, 5, 9–10 (selections).

W, Sept. 2: Identity Theory

Patricia Churchland, *Touching a Nerve: The Self as Brain*, ch. 2.

U.T. Place, "Is Consciousness a Brain Process?"

J.C.C. Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes."

F, Sept. 4: Functionalism

Jerry Fodor, "Something on the State of the Art."

MULTIPLYING, DIVIDING, AND DENYING THE SELF

Week 6

M, Sept. 7: Labor Day Holiday – No Class

W, Sept. 9: The Elusive and Fragmented Self

Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind*, ch. 6 (selections).

Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, 5.62–5.641.

W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (selections).

Michel de Montaigne, *Essays*, bk. II, ch. 12: *Apology for Raymond Sebond* (selections).

F, Sept. 11: No-Self

Nagarjuna, *The Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way* (selections).

Dogen, *Actualizing the Fundamental Point*.

Rumi, "Only Breath."

**Paper 2 due.**

DISCLAIMER

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This syllabus, like all sublunary things, is subject to change. I'll communicate any changes in as timely a manner as possible.