

An Invitation to Philosophy of Mind

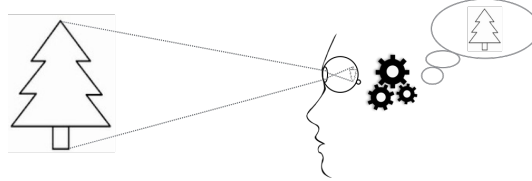
Instructor: Kevin Lande

E-mail: lande@humnet.ucla.edu

Office Hours: TBA

Philos. 7 / Summer 2017 (C session)

MWF 11:30–12:50, Bunche Hall 2160



1 What am I?

I am a puzzling thing and so are you. *I feel a slight tickle on my left ankle; I see the Santa Monica pier; I remember my childhood home; I think and imagine. I also weigh 165 lbs., am 5'11", have two legs, two arms, and two kidneys. I have more than a dozen molecules and more than a dozen memories. What is this thing—"I"—that is both mental (that feels, sees, and thinks) and physical (that has a weight and height; that can walk but cannot jump to the moon)? How do my mental aspects relate to my physical ones?*

This course invites you to reflect on the nature of the mind and how the mind fits into nature. These questions are fundamental to our understanding of ourselves. We all carry unspoken assumptions about these matters. Those assumptions guide both our science and how we think it best to treat each other. The goals of the course are:

- (1) To unsettle you, by shedding light on the ways in which we do not have a clear idea of what we are or how we fit into the natural world.
- (2) To give you a strategy for thinking through the big questions about who we are by breaking them down into sub-problems.

This course is not designed as a comprehensive survey of philosophical views on the mind. Rather, the emphasis will be on your engagement with some key questions and arguments. I will not presuppose any prior familiarity with the assigned materials or other philosophical texts.

2 Coursework

Course Website Readings, quizzes, and paper submissions will be handled at <https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/171C-PHILOS7-2>

Texts Crane, Tim. (2001). *Elements of Mind: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind*. Oxford University Press. ("EM" from here on.)

All other texts will be made available online through the CCLE course website.

Graded Coursework

85% Short papers (500 words max.; 1–2 per week starting Week 1)

15% Comprehension quizzes (4–6 questions; 1 per week starting Week 1)

Short Papers (85%) You will submit 1–2 short papers per week (beginning Week 1) through Turnitin on the course website. Each paper should be 500 words maximum and should include your UID but *not your name*. For each paper you will be asked to respond to a particular question, claim, or argument related to the readings. Every paper will be graded on a scale of 1–3, with “3” being the best score. Your lowest score will be removed from the grade calculation. Late enrollees will have an opportunity to make up the first week. Otherwise, Late papers will not be accepted.

These papers will serve as a way for you to engage actively with the ideas in the course. They will open a conversation between you, myself, and your classmates. I may distribute fully anonymized copies of one or two short papers to discuss as a group either in lectures or in sections. Please email me if you wish to opt out of having your papers distributed and discussed anonymously.

For resources to help you with your writing, visit <http://wp.ucla.edu/wc/>.

Comprehension quizzes (15%) You will take *comprehension quizzes*, available on the CCLE course website, and due at 11:59pm every Friday. These quizzes will contain multiple choice or short answer questions and will test you on your understanding of the key points of the readings and lectures. They may contain questions about readings from previous weeks. The quizzes allow me to assess your understanding of the course and will encourage you to take stock of what you have learned that week.

Attendance and Participation You are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting and each discussion section. Participating can mean anything from actively listening to asking questions and making comments. The best way to learn philosophy is to do philosophy, and this involves discussion and argumentation, in the flesh as well as in written work.

You will not be directly penalized or rewarded for showing up. But showing up and participating will benefit your performance on the short papers and comprehension quizzes. If you do not show up and participate, your performance on papers and quizzes will suffer.

3 Academic Integrity

You are expected to know and comply with University regulations regarding academic integrity. A student guide to academic integrity can be found here: <http://deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Portals/16/Documents/StudentGuide.pdf>. In short:

- **Do not** plagiarize (present others’ work without citing them); fabricate (make up quotations or data); re-submit work you have already written; collaborate with others without your instructor’s permission; help others do any of these things. In addition, please do not be mean or disrespectful to your classmates or disruptive to the class.
- **Do** cite your sources; be respectful to yourself, your peers, and your instructor; inform your instructor of any concerns you have about the classroom environment.

4 Accessibility

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. For more information visit www.cae.ucla.edu.

5 Tentative Schedule

See website for up-to-date info.

Most of the readings will be excerpts from the texts listed here.

• Week 1 - What am I?

- *M: Introduction to Philosophy*
 - * the pink guide to philosophy
 - * Jostein Gaardner, “Sophie’s World” (1994)
 - * Bryan Magee, “Scenes from Childhood” (1997)
- *W: What is a self?*
 - * Tim Crane, “Elements of Mind” (hereafter, “EM”), §1–3
 - * P.F. Strawson, “Persons” (1959)
 - * Rene Descartes, “Second Meditation” (1641)
- *F: “I am what thinks, not what has weight and height”*
Paper 1 Due (500wds max.)
 - * EM §9–10
 - * Rene Descartes, “Sixth Meditation” (1641)
 - * Rene Descartes, “Discourse on Methods” (1637)
 - * Ibn-Sina, “Floating Man” (1027)
 - * Didier Njirayamanda Kaphagawani, “African Conceptions of a Person” (2004)

• Week 2 - What am I?

- *M: “I am what thinks, not what has weight and height” (con’t)*
Paper 2 Due (500wds max.)
 - * Jaegwon Kim, “Why Minds and Bodies are Distinct” (2011)
- *W: “I am physical matter”*
 - * EM §11–15
 - * Jen McWeeny, “Princess Elisabeth and the Mind-Body Problem” (2011)
 - * Background: Jaegwon Kim, “Princess Elisabeth against Descartes” (2011)
 - * Background: David Papineau, “The Causal Closure of the Physical and Naturalism” (2008)
- *F: “I am what both thinks and what has weight and height”*
Paper 3 Due (500wds max.)
 - * EM §16–20
 - * E.J. Lowe, “Substance Dualism: A Non-Cartesian Approach” (2010)
 - * Background: Joseph Almog, “Precis of *What am I?*” (2005)
 - * Background: Kwasi Wiredu, “Amo’s Critique of Descartes’ Philosophy of Mind” (2004)
 - * Background: Mark Siderits, “Buddhist Non-Self: The No Owner’s Manual” (2011)

• Week 3 - Ways of being mental

- M: *Intentionality/representation*
Paper 4 Due (500wds max.)
 - * EM §5–6
 - * Tim Crane, “The Puzzle of Representation” (2003)
 - * Franz Brentano, “Intentionality” (1874)
- W: *Consciousness*
 - * EM §21
 - * Susan Blackmore, “What is it like to be...?” (2003)
- F: *The relation between the two*
Paper 5 Due (500wds max.)
 - * EM §22–25, 43–44
 - * Ned Block, “Inverted Earth” (1990)

● **Week 4 - Intentionality in the natural world**

- M: *Functionalism*—“The content of a thought depends on the thought’s function”
Paper 6 Due (500wds max.)
 - * Tim Crane, *Explaining Mental Representation* (2003), pp. 169–185
 - * Barbara Von Eckardt, *The Representational Theory of Mind* (2012), §2.2, §2.5, §2.5.4.
- W: *Causal theory*—“The content of a thought depends on what caused it”
 - * Ned Block, “Conceptual Role Semantics” (1998)
 - * Jerry Fodor, “The Mind-Body Problem” (1981)
- F: *Evolution*—“The content of a thought depends on how it was selected for”
Paper 7 Due (500wds max.)
 - * Crane cont’d, pp. 185–209
 - * Ruth Millikan, “Naturalizing Intentionality” (2000)
 - * Tony Stone and Martin Davies, “Chomsky Amongst the Philosophers” (2002)

● **Week 5 - Consciousness in the natural world**

- M: *No class (Labor Day)*
- W: *Zombies and bats*
 - * EM, §26–30
 - * Amy Kind, “Nagels ‘What Is It Like to Be a Bat’ Argument against Physicalism” (2011)
 - * Amy Kind, “Chalmers’ Zombie Argument” (2011)
- F: *The hard problem*
Paper 8 Due (500wds max.)
 - * David Chalmers, “Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness” (1995), 1–6
 - * Patricia Smith Churchland, “The Hornswoggle Problem” (1996)

● **Week 6 - Returning to ourselves**

- M: *Dreams and the self*
Paper 9 Due (500wds max.)
 - * Jennifer Windt, "Dreaming" (2015)
- W: *The story of my life*
Paper 10 Due (500wds max.)
 - * Elisabeth Camp, "The Narrative Self" (2016)
 - * Galen Strawson, "I am Not a Story" (2015)
 - * At least one of the following:
 - W.E.B. Du Bois, "The Souls of Black Folk" (1903)
 - Herman Hesse, "Steppenwolf" (1927)
 - Virginia Woolf, "The Waves" (1931)
- F: *Wrapping up*
 - * Louise Antony, "The Mental and the Physical" (2009)