San Francisco State University  
Department of Philosophy  
Fall 2005

Phil 620/Phil 820 Philosophy of Mind  
Tue 3:35-6:20pm HUM 301

Instructor: Professor Ásta (Sveinsdóttir)  
Email: asta@sfsu.edu (best method of reaching me)  
Course website: http://online.sfsu.edu/~asta/MindF05.html  
Office: HUM 361; 414.338.3135  
Office Hours: Thur, 2-4pm

Description: This is a survey seminar in the philosophy of mind through an opinionated introductory textbook and selected supplementary readings. Among the topics that will engage us are intentionality, mind/body relation, consciousness, thought, and perception. Towards the end of the semester we will consider critiques of some of the main assumptions made by the authors we have studied, in particular the assumption that the mental is the conscious.

Main texts:  
Tim Crane, Elements of Mind: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind (Oxford UP, 2001)  
Articles downloadable from the web or on reserve in the library

Requirements and Grading:  
1. Weekly paragraphs, due by email by midnight every Sunday. Ungraded, but you must hand all of them in to pass the course. If you miss any, you must make it up.  
2. Midterm paper, October 11. 40% of final grade. [5 pages]  
3. Final paper, due Dec 9. 60% of final grade. [7 pages Phil620/ 10 pages Phil820]

Attendance:  
Attendance is strongly encouraged, but not required. However, if you do come to class, be sure to come on time, have read the relevant material and be ready to participate actively in the class. It is your responsibility to get any assignments, revisions of the syllabus, etc. from the course website if you don’t show up in class.

Plagiarism:  
All work submitted for the course must be your own. Plagiarism will result in disciplinary action. For more details see: http://www.sfsu.edu/~collhum/plagiarism.html

Disability - Reasonable Accommodation:  
Academic accommodation is available for students with disabilities. Please see the Disability Programs and Resource Center in the Student Services Building 110 and talk to me as soon as possible to discuss any accommodation that you may need for the course.

Prof. Ásta  
30 Aug 2005
Class schedule (tentative):

Tue Aug 30: Introduction

A survey of topics through an opinionated introduction:

Tue Sept 6: Crane's intentionality. Key notions and distinctions: intentionality vs. intensionality; directedness; aspectual shape; intentional object; intentional content; externalism vs. internalism
Reading: Crane, Ch1 (Mind).
Background: Frege’s “Sense & Reference”; Anscombe, “The Intentionality of Sensation”

Tue Sept 13: Relation between mind and body I (background).
Crane, Ch2 (Body).
Descartes, Meditations II, and VI.
Ryle, “Descartes' Myth”

Tue Sept 20: Relation between mind and body II (identity theory)
Crane, Ch2
Smart, “Sensations and Brain Processes”
Jackson, “What Mary Didn’t Know”

Tue Sept 27: Relation between mind and body III (functionalism)
Crane, Ch2
Putnam, “The Nature of Mental States”
Block, “Troubles with Functionalism”

Tue Oct 4: Relation between mind and body IV (eliminativism)
Crane, Ch2
Rorty, “Persons without Minds”
Churchland, “Eliminative Materialism”

Tue Oct 11: Consciousness I (primer)
Crane, Ch3 (Consciousness)
Nagel, “What Is It Like to Be a Bat?”
Rosenthal, “Two Concepts of Consciousness”

Midterm paper due

Tue Oct 18: Consciousness II (Mary, gap, and zombies)
Crane, Ch3
Balog, “Conceivability, Possibility, and the Mind/Body Problem”
http://humanities.ucsc.edu/NEH/balog.htm

Tue Oct 25: Thought I (propositional attitudes)
Crane, Ch4 (Thought)
Quine, “Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes”

Tue Nov 1: Thought II (externalism)
Crane, Ch4
Putnam, “The Meaning of ‘Meaning’”

Tue Nov 8: Thought III (mind and language)
Burge, “Individualism and the Mental”
Millikan, “The Language - Thought Partnership: A Bird’s Eye View”
Scheman, "Individualism and the Objects of Psychology”

Tue Nov 15: Perception
Crane, Ch5 (Perception)
Ayer, from The Foundations of Empirical Knowledge (the argument from illusion)
Austin, from Sense and Sensibilities, (reply to Ayer’s argument)
Noë,
Hurley,

Troubling the waters and looking beyond:

Tue Nov 22: The Mental: the role of the unconscious?
Freud, “The Unconscious”
Freud, from Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis
Cavell, from From Freud to Psychoanalysis

Tue Nov 29: Experiences when not awake: dreams
Freud, On Dreams
Cavell, from From Freud to Psychoanalysis

Tue Dec 6: Looking beyond: moral psychology and the mental
Goldie, Personality
Last class

Final paper due Fri Dec 9 by 4pm in my box in the Philosophy Department Office, HUM 388.