

## **PIU33084/82 | Philosophy of Mind**

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**Credits:** 5/10 PIU33084 (5 ECTS); PIU33082 (10 ECTS)

**Contact Hours:** 22 hours of lectures / seminars (?)

**Pre-requisite:** N/A

**Semester:** Hilary

**Module Leader:** Dr Alex Moran

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**Room Number:** TBC

**Office Hours:**

**Lecturer(s):**

**Contact E-mail:**

**Room Number:**

**Office Hours:**

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### **Module Outline:**

This module focuses on the traditional mind-body problem. Our central question is: how does the conscious mind relate to the rest of the physical world? We will begin by exploring some of the main issues initially posed by Descartes, before working our way through various contemporary texts and themes during the rest of the course.

Much of the focus will be on the doctrine of physicalism (or materialism), i.e. the thesis that the mind is wholly physical nature. In particular, we will explore the main motivations for physicalism, its central challenges, and the varieties thereof. Problems for dualism (the thesis that the mind is non-physical in nature) will also be considered, as well as some non-traditional alternatives to both physicalism and dualism, including panpsychism and other forms of Russellian monism.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Understand and explain the main questions and positions within the current mind-body debate.
- Critically evaluate arguments for and against the central positions in the mind-body debate.
- Understand and explain a range of key notions within contemporary philosophy of mind (e.g. phenomenal consciousness, supervenience)
- Provide a philosophical defence of their own views in relation to the mind-body problem.

## **Recommended Reading List:**

As advised/circulated by module leader.

## **Assessment:**

- Two essays (60%)
- Exam (40%)