

PIP 88072 — Neurophilosophy

Module Information	
Module Code	PIP88072
Module Title	Neurophilosophy
Department	Philosophy
Module Personnel	Tom Farrell
Academic Year	2026-2027
Credit Weighting	10 credits
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	2 hours per week

Module Content	
Module Description	Perhaps since Plato, and certainly since Descartes, there has been a thesis in philosophy that there are two substances, the one mental (the mind) and the other physical (the body). This view arose in response to certain difficulties in philosophy but has raised more problems such as how these substances interact and whether one can exist without the other. These problems have proved so intractable that philosophers have been disposed to respond to them by rejecting one or other substance, or less dramatically by 'reducing' one to the other. None of the attempts to grapple with the 'mind-body' problem have found universal acceptance, although an ultimate reduction of the mental to the physical has been widely, if tacitly, accepted by scientists. The rapid development of neuroscience and artificial intelligence has been considered to support this view. In these seminars we will explore that apparent support.
Module Learning Aims	
Learning Outcomes	
Indicative Reading / Resources	An extensive and detailed reading list will be made available prior to the start of the module. Useful introductory works would be – • William Lyons: Matters of the Mind (Edinburgh, 2001)

Module Content

	• Paul Churchland: Matter and Consciousness (MIT 1994) • Paul Churchland: A Neurocomputational Perspective (MIT 1989)
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Assessment

Assessment Components	Essay (5,000 words)
Assessment Details	

Additional Information

Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	