PHIL 541 – The Philosophy of Mind

Time: Mon. 2.00 - 5.00pm
Location: ICS Conference Room
Instructor: Istvan Berkeley, Ph.D.
Office Location: HLG 559 and CLR 343
Phone Number: 482-6807
Fax Number: 482-5002
E-mail: istvan@Louisiana.edu

Assessment: Your final grade will be based upon an 15-18 page (double spaced) paper that is due at the end of the semester. You may choose your own paper topic, but it must be consistent with the topics discussed in this course. You must also have your paper topic approved by the instructor. You will also be required to provide an outline for your paper.

WEEK 1
Jan 15 Martin Luther King Day Holiday, no class.

WEEK 2
22 Introduction to philosophy.

WEEK 3
29 Philosophical Context
Clark Mindware, Appendix I.

Dualism
Descartes, R. Meditations on First Philosophy, Meditations I and II.
Wozniak, R. Mind and Body: Rene Descartes to William James at http://serendip.brynmawr.edu/Mind/Table.html

WEEK 4
Feb 5 Behaviourism
Ryle, G. The Concept of Mind, Ch. 1.
Fodor, J. The Language of Thought, Ch. 1.
Watson, J. Behaviourism, (excerpt from Ch. 10)

WEEK 5
12 Identity Theory
Place, U. T. "Is Consciousness a Brain Process?"
Smart, J. "Sensations and Brain Processes".

WEEK 6
19 Lundi Gras – No class
WEEK 7
26 Eliminative Materialism
Rorty, R. "Mind-Body Identity, Privacy and Categories".
Churchland, P. "Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes".
Churchland, P. and Sejnowski, T. "Neural Representation and Neural Computation".
Bechtel, W. "Connectionism and the Philosophy of Mind: An Overview".

WEEK 8
Mar 5 Functionalism I
Lewis, D. "Mad Pain, Martian Pain".
Dennett, D. "Why the Law of Effect Will Not Go Away".
Sober, E. "Putting the Function Back into Functionalism"
Dretske, F. "Misrepresentation".

WEEK 9
12 Functionalism II
Block, N. "The Troubles with Functionalism".
Berkeley, I. "Connectionism, Tri-Level Functionalism and Causal Roles".

WEEK 10
19 Physical Symbol Systems and Cognitive Architecture

WEEK 11
26 Symbols, Subsymbols and Cognitive Theory
Smolensky, P. "On the Proper Treatment of Connectionism"
McCloskey, M. "Networks and Theories: The Place of Connectionism in Cognitive Science"
Seidenberg, M. "Connectionist Models and Cognitive Theory"

WEEK 12
Apr 2 Symbols, Subsymbols: Current Debate
Berkeley, I. "What the #$*%! is a Subsymbol?"
Berkeley I., “What the <0.70, 1.17, 0.99, 1.07> is a Symbol?”
Also very strongly recommended,
Dawson, M. and Piercey, C. "On the Subsymbolic Nature of a PDP Architecture that uses a Nonmonotonic Activation Function"
Berkeley I., “Moving the Goal Posts: A Reply to Dawson and Piercey”.

6-15 Easter/Spring Break

WEEK 13
16 Dynamical Systems Theory
van Gelder, T. "Dynamics and Cognition"
EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES: A map of this floor is posted near the elevator marking the evacuation route and the Designated Rescue Area. This is an area where emergency service personnel will go first to look for individuals who need assistance in exiting the building. Students who may need assistance in exiting should identify themselves to the teaching faculty.