

Moravian College
Phil/Psych 251 Z/PM: Philosophy of Psychology
Fall 2009

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. William Falla
Phone: 610/821-8725 (W)
X7827
e-mail: newsf01@moravian.edu

Office Hours: Ham. 205: MWF 11:30-12:30; ½ hour after class, by appt.

Course Description:

This course is designed to examine philosophical and empirical theories of the mind. Main questions will be: What is mind? How does the mind relate to brain and to behavior? Can the brain be studied scientifically? In particular, we will focus on psychologists whose theories that use as their basic paradigm some form of the Darwinian model.

Course Objectives:

- A. To come to understand the concept of mind and how it is related to the brain.
- B. To examine historically how Darwinism as been used as a model for understanding mind/brain with special emphasis on specific psychologists who have utilized it.
- C. To examine specifically how this relates to their ideas on behavior and ethics.
- D. To be able to express ourselves cogently, clearly and coherently in both oral and written form with respect to this subject area.

Required Texts:

Richards, Robert, *Darwin and the Emergence of Evolutionary Theories of Mind and Behavior*, Univ. of Chicago Press, 1987.

Changeux, Jean-Pierre & Ricoeur, Paul, *What Makes Us Think?*, Princeton University Press, 2000.

Supplemental Materials

Articles and movies will be on reserve either electronically or in Reeves Library. Handouts and other materials will be made available as required.

Evaluation:

Your final course grade will be determined in the following manner:

Research Paper (30%): You will be to write a 6-8 page research paper in which you will be asked to take a specific psychologist and analyze/critique his/her system with special emphasis on how he/she utilized a “Darwinian” model. There will be

bibliographic instruction. Your paper will be evaluated on the quality of your research, the quality of your argumentation and the quality of your presentation.

Reflection Papers/Case Studies (50%): There will be four (4) Papers due on the dates indicated in the syllabus. These are to be 3-5 page papers in which you are to respond to a question that is based on what is currently being discussed in class. Your papers will be evaluated on your understanding of the issues, your ability to apply the course materials to your answer as well as the quality of your argumentation and presentation. These papers will be used as a basis for our class discussion.

Class Participation (20%): This includes both class attendance and your active participation in class discussions. A class such as this is predicated on class discussion so that this is an important component.

Grading Scale

92.5 - 100 = A

89.5 – 92.4 = A-

87.5 – 89.4 = B+

82.5 – 87.4 = B

etc.

All final grades are rounded to the nearest integer.

Honor Code/Attendance:

Students are expected to regularly attend class. Attendance contributes to your class participation and therefore is important. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor and to insure that arrangements are made to make up all missed assignments or material. You are also expected to hand in all assignments on time. If you must be late with your work, you must make arrangements with the instructor prior to the due date. Failure to do so may result in the lowering of the grade on late submitted work.

Students have an obligation to exhibit honesty in all their work. You will be found to have violated this obligation if you plagiarize or cheat. Plagiarizing is presenting the work of others as one's own; cheating is taking, giving or accepting illicit advantage for any course work inside or outside the classroom. Any violation will result in the lowering of your grade.

Additional Aid/Consideration

Students with special situations that may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Comenius Center Office or the Learning Center as soon as possible.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sept. 3: Introduction to Mind

Changeux & Ricoeur: pp. 3-41

Sept. 10: Darwin & Mind I-Precursors

Richards: 20-40, 47-57,

Sept. 17: Darwin & Mind II-Origins

Paper #1 Due

Beauchamp & Childress: pp.30-98

Sept. 24: Darwin & Mind III-Descent

Richards: pp. 185-242

Oct. 1: Herbert Spencer & Evolutionary Ethics

Richards: pp.253-315

Oct. 8: William James

Paper #2 Due

Richards: pp.409-450

Oct. 15: James Balwin

Richards: pp. 451-480

Oct. 22: Sigmund Freud

Changeux & Riceour: pp. 41-75

Article on reserve

Oct. 29: Modern Neuronal Models

Paper #3 Due

Changeux & Riceour: pp. 75-133

Nov. 5: Neuronal Models-Consciousness

Changeux & Riceour: pp. 134-178

Nov. 12: Modern Biological Based Morality

Changeux & Riceour: pp. 179-221

Nov. 19: Emergent Models for the Mind

Paper #4 Due

Changeux & Riceour: pp. 222-259

Dodd, Michael, "Hylomorphism and Human Wholeness: Perspectives on the Mind-Brain Problem", *Theology and Science*, Vol. 7, #2, May 2009, 141-162.

Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 3: Deviance, the Mind and Morality
Movie: *A Beautiful Mind*

Final Paper Due