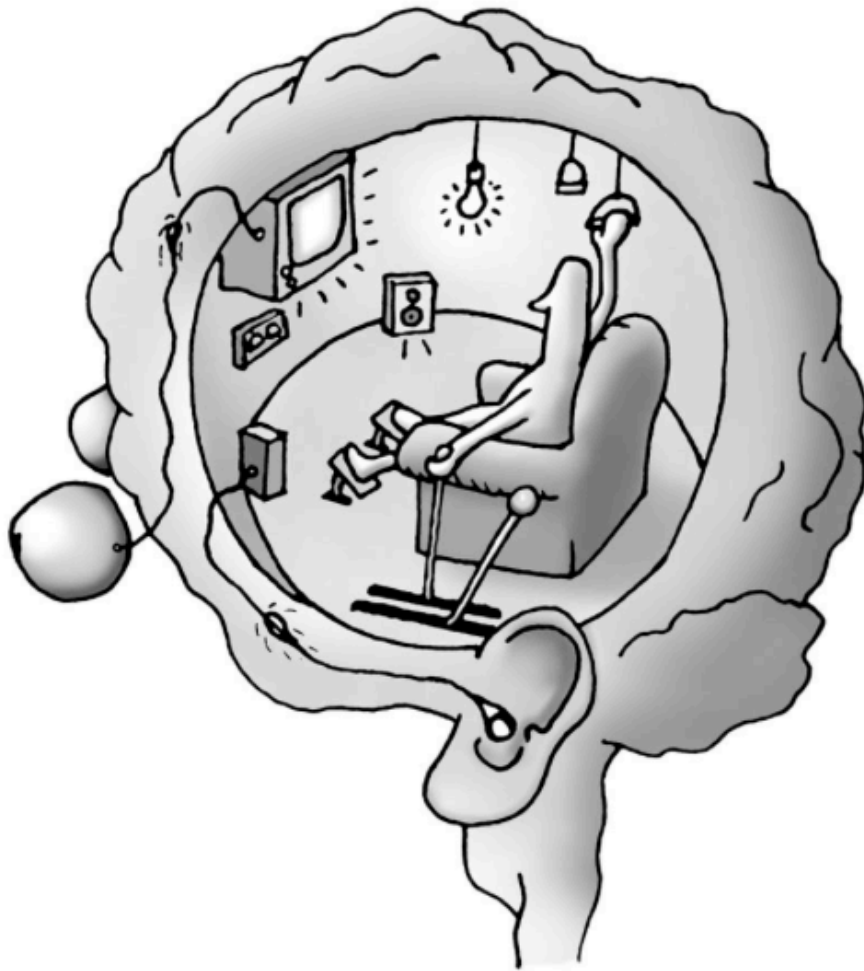


PHENOMENOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

INSTRUCTOR: CHRISTIAN COSERU
PHIL 298 – SPECIAL TOPICS



“Begin at the beginning,” the King said, very gravely, “and go on till you come to the end: then stop.”
— Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

PHENOMENOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

PHIL 298 - FALL 2014

Dr. Christian Coseru

4B Glebe Street, # 205

Phone: 953-1935; **Email:** coseruATcofc.edu

Office hours: Mon/Wed 2:00-4:00 p.m. and by appointment

Days & Time: TR 1:40-2:55

Location: MYBK 206

COURSE DESCRIPTION

For much of the twentieth century philosophical work on the mind has followed two distinct streams: phenomenology and analytic philosophy. The phenomenological approach began in the late 19th century Europe with Brentano, and reached maturity in the 20th century in the work of such influential figures as Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, and Merleau-Ponty. After the Second World War, and especially in the Anglophone world, new approaches and methods for studying the mind were developed, often drawing from research in psychology, linguistics, neuroscience, and the interdisciplinary field of cognitive science. As the century progressed so the gulf between phenomenology and analytic philosophy of mind widened. This course surveys recent work that aims to bring together these two streams of thought by focusing, on the one hand, on work in phenomenology that is significant to current analytic research, and, on the other, on work that deploys the tools of analytic philosophy to address central phenomenological concerns. It also draws from recent philosophical contributions to the study of mind and cognition from a cross-cultural perspective. We will consider several of the most fundamental issues in the philosophical study of mind: (i) the nature, content, and character of consciousness; (ii) the problem of intentionality; (iii) approaches to perception, action, and emotion; and (iv) conceptions of self/no-self and subjectivity.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the College Bookstore)

Gallagher, Shaun & Zahavi, Dan. 2012. *The Phenomenological Mind*. Routledge, 2nd edition.

PM

Merleau-Ponty, M. 2012. *The Phenomenology of Perception*. Routledge, 3rd edition.

PP

Additional readings on OAKS.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Smith, David Woodruff & Thomasson, Amie (eds.). 2005. *Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind*, OUP. **PPM**

Zahavi, Dan (ed.). 2012. *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Phenomenology*, OUP. **OHCP**

OHCP

Velmans, Max & Schneider, Susan (eds.). 2007. *The Blackwell Companion to Consciousness*, OUP. **BCC**

BCC

TENTATIVE READING ASSIGNMENTS

Aug 19-21 **Introduction: Philosophy of Mind, Cognitive Science, and Phenomenology.** Readings: Gallagher & Zahavi (PM: 1-15) Merleau-Ponty (PP: lxx-lxxxv); Frith & Rees, 'A Brief History of the Scientific Approach to the Study of Consciousness' (BCC 9-22).

Aug 26-28 **Methods, Arguments, and Findings.** Readings: Gallagher & Zahavi (PM: 15-50); Tye, 'Philosophical Problems of Consciousness' (BCC 23-35).

Sep 2-4 **Classical Prejudices and the Return to Phenomena.** Readings: Merleau-Ponty (PM: 1-66); Siewert 'Respecting Appearances: A Phenomenological Approach to Consciousness' (OHCP 48-69 on OAKS)

Sep 9-11 **The Origins of Consciousness and Self-Consciousness.** Readings: Gallagher & Zahavi (PM: 51-76); Trevarthen & Reddy, *Origins of Consciousness*. Readings: (BCC: 41-55 on OAKS); Kriegel, 'The Self-Representational Theory of Consciousness' (OAKS)

- Sep 16 Readings: Polger, ‘Extent of Consciousness: Rethinking the evolution of consciousness’ (BCC: 72-86 On OAKS).
- Sep 18 FIRST PAPER DUE**
- Sep 23-25 **The Phenomenology of Perception.** Readings: Gallagher and Zahavi (PM: 99-122); Merleau-Ponty, ‘The Perceived World’ (PP: 209-252);
- Sep 30 - Oct 2 Readings: Carman, ‘On the Inescapability of Phenomenology’ (OAKS); Coseru ‘Taking the Intentionality of Perception Seriously: Why Phenomenology is Inescapable’ (OAKS)
- Oct 7-9 Readings: Siegel, ‘Which Properties are Represented in Perception’ (OAKS)
- Oct 14-16 **Intentionality, Agency, and the Body.** Readings: Gallagher & Zahavi (PM: 123-146); Romdenh-Romluc, ‘Thought in Action’ (OHCP: 198-215 on OAKS); Krueger, ‘The Who and How of Experience’ (OAKS)
- Oct 21 **SECOND PAPER DUE**
- Oct 23 Readings: Gallagher and Zahavi, ‘Action and Agency’ (PM: 171-190); Bermúdez, ‘Bodily Awareness’ (PPM: 295-315); Noë ‘Experience without the Head’ (OAKS)
- Oct 28-30 Readings: Heinämaa, ‘Sex, Gender, and Embodiment’ (OHCP: 216-242 on OAKS); Legrand ‘Phenomenological Dimensions of Bodily Self-Consciousness’ (OAKS)
- Nov 4-6 **Selves, Subjectivity, and Consciousness.** Readings: Gallagher & Zahavi, (PM: 219-238). Thompson, ‘Self, No-Self: Memory and Reflexive Awareness’ (OAKS); Ganeri, ‘Immersion and Subjectivity’ (OAKS)
- Nov 11 THIRD PAPER DUE**
- Nov 11-13 Ganeri, ‘Subjectivity, Selfhood and the Use of the Word ‘I’’ (OAKS); Zahavi, ‘The Experiential Self’ (OAKS)
- Nov 18-20 Coseru, ‘Consciousness as Discernment and Sentience’ (OAKS); Zahavi and Kriegel, ‘For-me-ness: What it is and what it is not’ (OAKS).
- Dec 9 FINAL EXAM (12:00-3:00 p.m.).**