

# COURSE DETAIL

## METAPHYSICS AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

**Country**

United Kingdom - England

**Host Institution**

University of Cambridge, Pembroke College

**Program(s)**

Summer in Cambridge

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Philosophy

**UCEAP Course Number**

102

**UCEAP Course Suffix**

S

**UCEAP Official Title**

METAPHYSICS AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

METAPHYSICS & PHIL

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

5.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

**Course Description**

Metaphysics is the philosophical study of what there is and what it is like. The dominant view today is naturalism of one form or another—the view that the natural sciences give the pre-eminent taxonomy of the world. This raises the question: what is the place of mind in nature? How are we to reconcile our view of ourselves as thinking things with our view of ourselves as natural creatures? Metaphysics is the philosophical study of what there is and what it is like. This course starts by asking how mental activity might causally engage with physical objects. In other words, how do our thoughts, decisions, and feelings make any difference to what our bodies do, and how does the condition of our bodies affect them in turn? This problem is canonically associated with Descartes, and it is generally thought to have undermined his dualistic account of the relation of the human soul to the animal body. The course also examines contemporary variants of this problem, and how it informs naturalistic treatments of the mind. It also focuses on other idiosyncratic features of the mental that are difficult to reconcile with a scientific construal of ourselves. The course thus serves as an exercise both in the philosophy of mind and general metaphysics. Students will address some of the most profound questions in the history of philosophy, as well as take in some of its most remarkable and recent landmarks.

**Language(s) of Instruction**

English

**Host Institution Course Number****Host Institution Course Title**

METAPHYSICS AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

**Host Institution Course Details****Host Institution Campus**

Cambridge

**Host Institution Faculty**

<b>Host Institution Degree</b>
<b>Host Institution Department</b> Philosophy
<b>Course Last Reviewed</b>

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