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

3.30

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

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Philosophy
Course Last Reviewed

Print