



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Mental Causation - 15250

Last update 13-08-2020

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Philosophy

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Oron Shagrir

Coordinator Email: oron.shagrir@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: 0

Teaching Staff:

Prof Oron Shagrir

Course/Module description:

We will discuss the claim of mental causation, the claim that mental events -- beliefs, desires and so on -- are causes of our actions.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- To be familiar with a complex philosophical problem.
- To analyze philosophical arguments and papers
- To present a paper in class
- To prepare a final essay
- To discuss philosophy with classmates

Attendance requirements(%):

80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and discussion

Course/Module Content:

The problem of mental causation

Davidsonian approach

Counterfactual approach

Multiple realization approach

High-order properties approach

Interventionist approach

Required Reading:

1. Davidson, Donald 1963: "Actions, Reasons and Causes", *Journal of Philosophy* 60: 685-700. Reprinted in *Davidson's Essays on Actions and Events*.
2. Davidson, 1970: "Mental Events, in L. Foster and J.W. Swanson (eds.), *Experience*

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- and Theory. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. Reprinted in Davidson's *Essays on Actions and Events*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (1980).
3. LePore, E. and B. Loewer 1987: "Mind Matters". *Journal of Philosophy* 84: 630-642.
 4. Davidson, Donald 1993: "Thinking Causes", in J. Heil and A. Mele (eds.), *Mental Causation*, Oxford: Clarendon Press.
 5. Kim, Jaegwon 1993: "Can Supervenience and 'Non-Strict Laws' Save Anomalous Monism?", in J. Heil and A. Mele (eds.), *Mental Causation*, Oxford: Clarendon Press.
 6. Fodor, 1989, "Making Mind Matter More", *Philosophical Topics*, 17: 59-79. Reprinted in J. A. Fodor, 1990, *A Theory of Content and Other Essays*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 137-59.
 7. Hornsby, Jennifer, "Agency and Causal Explanation". In Heil, John (ed.); Mele, Alfred R. (Ed), (1993). *Mental Causation*, in J. Heil and A. Mele (eds.), *Mental Causation*, Oxford: Clarendon Press.
 8. Kim, Jaegwon 1998: *Mind in a Physical World*, chapter 2.
 9. Yablo, S., 1992, "Mental Causation", *Philosophical Review*, 101: 245-80.
 10. Pereboom, Derk 2002: "Robust Nonreductive Materialism", *Journal of Philosophy* 99: 499-531.
 11. Bennett, K., 2003, "Why the Exclusion Problem Seems Intractable, and How, Just Maybe, to Tract It", *Noûs*, 37: 471-97.
 12. Woodward, J., 2008, "Mental Causation and Neural Mechanisms", in Hohwy and Kallestrup 2008, pp. 218-62.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 100 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: