

PHILO 366 Philosophy of Mind:

Professor Steven Ross – Spring 2016

This first part of this course takes up some of the better known general approaches to mind - dualism, behaviorism, materialism, functionalism. We then turn to some of the central questions in the field, such as: can understanding be captured in terms of a certain sort of performance? can explanations that refer to intentionality, or psychological states, fit on to explanations offered in terms of physical causation, or are they in some deep way, "autonomous"? can consciousness be thought of as amenable to physical explanation? what follows about consciousness, or about our ways of thinking about it, if we say it cannot? This is an advanced philosophy course. The readings are challenging. But there are in these readings some of the most imaginative and interesting arguments to be found in all of philosophy.