

Professor: David Barnett

Class sessions Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:10-5pm

Office Hours: Jackman Humanities Building (NW corner of Bloor and St. George)
Room 539
Tuesday, 3-5pm

Teaching assistants: Sean Smith (sean.smith@mail.utoronto.ca): HS 618 / 01
Zachary Weinstein (zachary.weinstein@mail.utoronto.ca): HS 696 / 02
Mason Westfall (mason.westfall@mail.utoronto.ca): HS 614 / 03

Course website: http://www.davidjamesbar.net/?page_id=485

Email: davidjames.barnett@utoronto.ca

Email policy:

- Emails are for administrative questions, not in-depth philosophical discussion. Any email sent to me or to your TA should be answerable in a sentence or two.
- Routine questions concerning assignments, due dates, etc., should be sent to your TA.
- Include your full name and the name of your TA.
- Any questions (especially near exams or due dates for papers) should be sent at least 48 hours prior to when you will need them answered.
- If you don't receive an answer after 48 hours, it is possible that someone dropped the ball. Feel free to email again.

Course Description: A traditional view holds that human life begins at conception, that an adult at the end of his or her life can be the same person who was once a child and who was before that that an embryo, and that this same person will go on to survive the death of his or her body. Does this traditional conception of human existence hold up to critical scrutiny? In this introductory philosophy course, we will address such fundamental questions of human existence as: When does life begin? When during the development of an embryo into an adult human being does one acquire moral rights? What is a mind, and what is the mind's relationship to the brain? Do animals have minds? Could robots or computers have minds someday? Do you have an immaterial soul that is capable of surviving the death of your body and brain? When does life end, and why is it bad? Do human beings in a persistent vegetative state have the same right to life that most adult humans have? No prior background in philosophy will be presupposed, although a willingness to ask difficult questions and develop careful and methodical reasoning in support of one's answers will be essential.

- Readings: Three assigned books (available at the bookstore):
- (H&D) *The Mind's I: Fantasies and Reflections on Self and Soul*, edited by Douglas Hofstadter and Daniel Dennett
 - (Chalmers) *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings, 2nd ed.*, edited by David J. Chalmers
 - *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*, by John Perry
- Additional readings will be made available on the course website.
- Grading: 15% short paper (500 words, first draft due in class on Sep 20, optional revisions due in class on Oct 11)
 20% midterm exam (in class Oct 18)
 30% final exam (during exam period)
 25% final paper (1,500 words, due in class on Dec 7)
 10% tutorial participation
- Late paper policy: Late papers automatically receive a grade reduction of one third of a letter grade immediately, and additional reductions for every additional 48 hours. Papers more than 10 days late will not be accepted. Extenuating circumstances should be discussed *in advance* with your TA. If you cannot make it to class to submit your paper, it must be emailed to your TA at least one hour before class, or else it will be considered late.

Class Schedule

Week 1	Do fetuses have a right to life?
M (Sep 11)	class introduction
W (Sep 13)	Mary Anne Warren, 'On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion' (website)
Week 2	The moral status of fetuses and animals
M (Sep 18)	Don Marquis, 'Why Abortion is Immoral' (website)
W (Sep 20)	Peter Singer, 'All Animals are Equal' (website) Due in class: short paper draft (500 words, "Do animals have minds?")
Week 3	Animal minds and artificial intelligence
M (Sep 25)	Thomas Huxley, 'On the Hypothesis that Animals are Automata, and Its History' (Chalmers 3) Terrel Miedaner, 'The Soul of Martha, A Beast' (H&D 7)
W (Sep 27)	Alan Turing, 'Computing Machinery and Intelligence' (H&D 4) Terrel Miedaner, 'The Soul of the Mark III Beast' (H&D 8)
Week 4	Physicalism and dualism
M (Oct 2)	John Searle, 'Minds, Brains, and Programs' (H&D 22) Brian Aldiss, 'Super-Toys Last All Summer Long' (website)
W (Oct 4)	Rene Descartes, excerpts from <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> (Chalmers 1)

Week 5	Problems for dualism
M (Oct 9)	class cancelled for Thanksgiving
W (Oct 11)	Jeff McMahan, excerpt from <i>The Ethics of Killing</i> (website) Daniel Dennett, excerpt from <i>Consciousness Explained</i> (website) Due in class: Optional revised draft of short paper
Week 6	Problems for dualism, continued
M (Oct 16)	Elisabeth of Bohemia, 1643 correspondence with Descartes (website) Karen Bennett, 'Mental Causation', sections 1 - 3 (website) Raymond Smullyan, 'An Unfortunate Dualist' (Chalmers 4)
W (Oct 18)	midterm exam (in class) all tutorials cancelled
Week 7	
M (Oct 23)	David M. Armstrong, 'The Causal Theory of the Mind' (Chalmers 12)
W (Oct 25)	Martine Nida-Rümelin, 'Pseudonormal Vision: An Actual Case of Qualia Inversion?' (Chalmers 15)
Week 8	Qualia and the Hard Problem of consciousness
M (Oct 30)	Frank Jackson, 'Epiphenomenal Qualia' (Chalmers 28)
W (Nov 1)	Ned Block, 'Philosophical Issues about Consciousness' (website) Ned Block et al., 'Consciousness Science: Real Progress and Lingering Misconceptions' (website)
Week 9	All classes cancelled for reading week
M (Nov 6)	class cancelled
W (Nov 8)	class cancelled
Week 10	The unity of consciousness
M (Nov 13)	Thomas Nagel, 'Brain Bisection and the Unity of Consciousness' (website)
W (Nov 15)	Greg Egan, 'Learning to Be Me' (email)
Week 11	Personal identity
M (Nov 20)	John Perry, <i>A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality</i> , First Night
W (Nov 22)	John Perry, <i>A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality</i> , Second Night
Week 12	Personal identity and advanced directives
M (Nov 27)	John Perry, <i>A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality</i> , Third Night
W (Nov 29)	Ronald Dworkin, 'Life Past Reason' (website) Rebecca Dresser, 'Dworkin on Dementia: Elegant Theory, Questionable Policy' (website)

Week 13	Death
M (Dec 4)	Jeff McMahan, 'The Metaphysics of Brain Death' (website)
W (Dec 6)	Fred Feldman, 'Epicurus and the Evil of Death' (website)
Th (Dec 7)	Due in class: final paper