Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007349	**Version:** 3 **Date Amended:** 30/Mar/2023

1. Module Title
Mind and Consciousness

2a. Module Leader
Michael Wilby

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module is an introduction to foundational issue in the Philosophy of Mind. We will discuss three key features of the mind – consciousness, rationality and intentionality – and we will try to understand how and whether these features can have a place in the natural world. Is the mind just the final barrier to a scientific understanding of the world, or is it something that will forever remain outside such an understanding?
The module has three parts: The first part will look at the major contemporary theories about the nature of the mind, including Dualism, Behaviourism, Functionalism, Eliminative Materialism and the Extended Mind Thesis. The second part will look specifically at the problem of consciousness – discussing puzzles such as Mary's Room and Philosophical Zombies. The final part of the course will look at specific areas of contemporary interest including Perception, Social Cognition, and Animal Cognition. The module is highly interactive, encouraging you to develop a self-generated understanding of the philosophical issues that surround the relation between the mind and the brain. Working together in teams you will a) co-create your own imaginative and creative 'thought-experiments' to illustrate key philosophical issues and problems b) be supported to develop self-managed research, looking at how the philosophical issues relate to empirical and practical evidence within Cognitive Science, Psychology or Medicine c) explore how the topics discussed might have practical relevance to issues of mental health and mental illnesses.

6b. Outline Content

- The Nature of the Mind
- The History of thinking about the Mind (esp. 20th Century)
- The Hard Problem of Consciousness
- The Puzzles of Reference and Intentionality
- Artificial Intelligence
- Philosophy of Psychology
- Philosophy of Perception
- Social Cognition
- Mental Health

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Develop an understanding of the major contemporary philosophical theories of the nature of the mind.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Develop an understanding of the nature of the puzzles that arise with trying to understand the place of the mind within the world (including the Hard Problem of Consciousness).
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Develop an understanding of how philosophical thinking about the mind has developed from the mid-20th century to the present day.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Learn to apply your understanding of the philosophical ideas about the mind to specific topics, including mental health and animal minds.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Work in a group to produce a self-managed presentation.
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically assess current philosophical theories of the mind, and creatively develop your own fixes and solutions to current ideas.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	33	1,2,3,4,6	3 hours per week, Weeks 1-11
Other teacher managed learning	4	1-6	Essay Workshops (Weeks 6 and 12)
Student managed learning	263	1-6	Structured tasks in Canvas, group work tasks, reading and researching for assignments.
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1, 2, 3, 6	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
2000 Word Essay					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1, 2, 3, 6	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
2000 Word Essay					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
012	Coursework	4, 5	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
1500 Word Report, based on a presentation					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]