Conclusion

Fall 2005

In which the mysteries of consciousness are explained… or further mystified.

Course Evaluation Forms

Please pick up a set of forms before taking your seat
One for lectures
One for discussion

You may use either pen or pencil
Final Examination  
• Monday, May 16, 2005  
  – 12:30 - 3:30 PM  
  – 100 GPB (near Pat Brown’s Grille)  
  • DSP Students -- Usual Arrangements  
• 2-Hour Exam (across 3 hours)  
  – 1st hour, noncumulative  
  – 2nd hour, cumulative  
• Review  
  – Wednesday, May 11, 10:00 - 12:00 Noon  
  – 159 Mulford  

Final Examination  
Closed Book, Closed Notes, in Pen  

Noncumulative  
50 Points  
• Sleep and Dreams  
• Hysteria, Hypnosis  
• Absorption, Daydreaming, and Meditation  
• Consciousness and Self  
• Origins of Consciousness  

Cumulative  
50 Points  
• Mind-Body Problem(s)  
• Introspection  
• Attention, Automaticity  
• Explicit-Implicit Distinction  
• Anesthesia, Coma  
• Lodge’s Thinks...  

Same Format As the Midterm:  
Short-Answer  
Some Degree of Choice  

Review Session  
• Wednesday, May 11  
  – 10:00 - 12:00 Noon  
  – 159 Mulford  
• Review Illustrations will be posted to the course Website  
• Queries to course Bulletin Board  
  – Deadline: Friday, May 13  
  • 5:00 PM  
  • Queries will be addressed by noon Sunday
Mind States IV
May 27-29, 2005
Palace of Fine Arts, San Francisco

- Selected Presenters
  - Susan Blackmore
  - Paul Bach-Y-Rita
- Lots of Psychedelia
- Lots of Video Games
  - $250 by May 15
  - $300 at the Door
- See Jeff Downs
  - www.mindstates.org

Rene Descartes (1596-1650)

“Cogito, ergo sum”
“Sum res cogitans”

“Thinking” includes all conscious internal mental states

William James (1842-1910)

“Psychology is the science of mental life...
The first fact for us, then, as psychologists, is that thinking of some sort goes on”
Principles of Psychology (1890)

“Psychology is the description and explanation of states of consciousness as such”
Psychology: Briefer Course (1892)
Avoidance of Consciousness
Flanagan (1992)

• Positivistic Reserve
  – Science deals with observable things
• Piecemeal Approach
  – Work from bottom up
• Conscious Inessentialism
  – Not necessary for even complex behavior
• Epiphenomenalist Suspicion
  – Consciousness plays no role in behavior

Resurgence of Consciousness

• Cognitive Revolution
  – Attention
  – Short-Term Memory
• “Rediscovery” of the Unconscious
  – Automaticity
  – Neuropsychology
  – Explicit-Implicit Distinction
• “Theory of Mind”
  – In Nonhuman Animals
  – In Infants and Children

Scientific Problems of Consciousness

• The Mind-Body Problem(s)
  – Neural Correlates of Consciousness
  – Causal Efficacy of Mental States
• The Unconscious Mind
  – Explicit-Implicit Distinctions
  – Validity of Introspection
• Knowledge of Other Minds
  – Animal Awareness
  – Machine Consciousness
  – Social Cognition and the Theory of Mind
How to Solve the Mind-Body Problem: 1

• Define Consciousness
  – Not complex behavior
  – Not information-processing
  – Phenomenal Awareness
    • Wakefulness
    • Attention
    • Phenomenal Awareness
      – Qualia
      – Intentionality
      – Self-Reference

How to Solve the Mind-Body Problem: 2

• Get a Comparison Condition
  – Wakefulness
    • vs. Sleep, Anesthesia, Coma
  – Attention
    • vs. Pre-Attentive, Automatic Processing
  – Phenomenal Awareness
    • Qualia
      – Faculty, Modality, Quality
    • Intentionality
      – Propositional Attitudes
    • Self-Reference
      – 1st- vs. 3rd-Person Descriptions

How to Solve the Mind-Body Problem: 2b

• The Explicit-Implicit Distinction
  – In Cognition
    • Memory
    • Perception
    • Learning
    • Thought
  – Beyond Cognition
    • Emotion
    • Motivation

What is the difference that makes for consciousness?
How to Solve the Mind-Body Problem: 3

Don’t forget the other mind-body problem:
How does the mind affect the body?

• “Free will” vs. determinism
  – The Automaticity Juggernaut
• “Psychosomatic” Interactions
  – Placebo Effects
  – Suggestion Effects

How to Solve the Mind-Body Problem: 3b

• The Explicit-Implicit Distinction
  – In Cognition
    • Memory
    • Perception
    • Learning
    • Thought
  – Beyond Cognition
    • Emotion
    • Motivation

What is the difference that consciousness makes?

In the Meantime...

• The “Piecemeal Approach” has its virtues
• There’s lots of fun stuff to study
  – Anesthesia
  – Coma
  – Sleep, Dreams, Parasomnias
  – “Hysteria”, Hypnosis
  – Absorption, Flow, Daydreaming
  – Meditation
  – “Theory of Mind” in Children, Animals
  – Psychoactive Drugs
The Mysterious Case of the Philosopher’s Palm Pilot

Can a zombie lose his Palm Pilot?

The Mental Legacy of Evolution

- Intelligence
- Language
- Consciousness
- Culture

“Know Thyself”
Plato, Protagoras