

Philosophy 840
Spring, 2016

W. Lycan and C. Merino-Rajme

NONSTANDARD TYPES OF MENTAL CONTENT

Texts

Some articles and book chapters online. Where no link is given, the item will be on our Sakai site. Recommended as background: D. Braddon-Mitchell and F. Jackson, *Philosophy of Mind and Cognition*.

WGL contact

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Written work

Option 1: Four short papers (ca. 1500 words) during the semester, due on February 4, February 25, March 24, and April 21. Topics will be of your own choosing, but I will offer suggestions.

Or 2: If you like, after February 4 you may substitute one 3000-word paper for two consecutive shorter ones.

Or, 3: Write just one short paper due February 4 and one term paper due April 21.

Syllabus

January 14: Introduction to the area. Functionalism. Propositional attitudes; their dual nature. Belief: Language of thought vs. instrumentalism. *Reading*: Lycan & Prinz, *Mind and Cognition*, Introduction to Part I; U.T. Place, "[Is Consciousness a Brain Process?](#)"; H. Putnam, "[The Nature of Mental States](#)"; N.J. Block, excerpt from "[Troubles with Functionalism](#)"; *M&C*, Intro. to Part III; *M&C*, Intro. to Part V.

- January 21: Propositional attitudes, continued. Content externalism. Psychosemantics. Vision: How perception raises the same issues. *Reading:* *M&C*, Intro. to Part VI; S. Stich, "[Autonomous Psychology and the Belief-Desire Thesis](#)"; T. Burge, "[Individualism and Psychology](#)"; *M&C*, Intro. to Part II; R.G. Millikan, "Biosemantics"; B. Loewer, excerpt from "A Guide to Naturalizing Semantics."
- January 28: Desire content. Must desire be propositional at all? *Reading:* D. Stampe, "Defining Desire"; R. Gordon, "The Circle of Desire"; Lycan, "[Desire Considered as a Propositional Attitude](#)," pp. 201-06, 211-12; T. Brewer, "Three Dogmas of Desire."
- February 4: The "grain" problem regarding desire. *Reading:* Lycan, "[Desire Considered as a Propositional Attitude](#)," pp. 206-11; D. Graff Fara, "[Specifying Desires](#)." (Recommended: Graff Fara, "[Desires, Scope and Tense](#).") **Short paper due from everyone.**
- February 11: Intending. *Reading:* A. Baier, "[The Intentionality of Intentions](#)"; D. Davidson, "[Intention](#)"; J. McDowell, "[What is the Content of an Intention in Action?](#)"; R. Audi, "The Scope of Intention: Action, Conduct, and Responsibility."
- February 18: Wishing, hoping. Affect such as being sad that, being embarrassed that,.... *Reading:* The song! (sexism alert), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAdTsAKvVTU>; D.M. Armstrong, *A Materialist Theory of the Mind*, pp. 154-58; A. Martin, *How We Hope*, Introduction and Chs. 1, 2; Armstrong, *MTM*, pp. 179-86.
- February 25: Wondering whether. Propositional imagining. Faith and trust. *Reading:* J. Friedman, "[Question-Directed Attitudes](#)"; T. Gendler, "[Imagination](#)," secs. 2.2-2.4; R.M. Adams, *Finite and Infinite Goods*, Ch. 16; R. Audi, *Rationality and Religious Commitment*, pp; 60, 71-72. **Second short paper due.**
- March 3: What does hearing represent? *Reading:* M. Perkins, *Sensing the World*, Ch. Five; C. O'Callaghan, *Sounds*, Chs. 1-3, 5, 6.
- March 10: Smell as a paradigm of perceiving. Smell and taste. *Reading:* M. Perkins, *SW*, Ch. Three; Lycan, "The Slighting of Smell"; C. Spence, M. Auvray and B. Smith, "Confusing Tastes with Flavours." **Third short paper due.**
- March 24: What does smell represent? *Reading:* C. Batty, "[A Representational Account of Olfactory Experience](#)"; L. Richardson, "[Sniffing and Smelling](#)"; B. Young, "[Smelling Matter](#)"; Lycan, "[The Intentionality of Smell](#)."
- March 31: What does touch represent? *Reading:* M. Perkins, *SW*, Chs. Four, Seven; K. Akins, "[Of Sensory Systems and the 'Aboutness' of Mental States](#)"; M. Fulkerson, *The First Sense*, Chs. 2, 4.

April 7: Proprioception. *Reading*: M. Perkins, *SW*, Ch. Two; B. O'Shaughnessy, "[Proprioception and the Body Image](#)."

April 14: The intentional structure of emotions. *Reading*: J. Prinz, *Gut Reactions*, Chs. 1-3.

April 21: More on emotional ascription. Impersonal ascriptions (Dean). **Final paper due from everyone.**