

Mind and Body

A. Readings

Compulsory readings:

- Descartes, R., *Meditations on First Philosophy*, translated by Cottingham, J., Cambridge University Press (1986), Meditations II and VI.
- Ryle, G., *The concept of Mind*, Penguin (1963), chapter 1.
- P. F. Strawson, 'Self, Mind and Body', in *Freedom and Resentment* (Methuen 1974), Chapter 8, pp.169-177, reprinted in David Rosenthal (ed.) *The Nature of Mind*, OUP (1991), Chapter 5, pp.58-62.
- Robinson, H., '[Dualism](#)', *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

Additional readings:

- Jackson, F., 'Epiphenomenal qualia', *Philosophical Quarterly* 32 (1982), pp.127–136.
- Davidson, D., 'Mental Events', in his *Essays on Actions and Events*, OUP (2001).
- Smith, P., and Jones, O.R., *The Philosophy of Mind* (CUP), 1986, part I. pp.1-67.
- Carruthers, P., *The Nature of Mind an Introduction*, Routledge, (2004), Chapter 2, pp.36-72.

Essay

Write an essay addressing the following issues:

What are Descartes' arguments for the distinctness of the mental and the physical? Are his arguments successful? Putting aside his arguments, does it seem like Descartes' claim – or at least something roughly like it – is true, or are the mental and physical ultimately identical?