

Topics in Philosophy of Mind (pleasure and pain)

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2022 Spring

Instructor: 程炜

Room: 老化学楼 227

Time: 周二 18:40-21:40

Office hours: 提前邮件预约

Overview

This course is an advanced seminar in philosophy of mind, requiring students to have taken at least one introductory course or self-taught in this or similar fields. The contents of the course will be adapted in each semester according to the needs of the instructor and the students. They will not be limited to general topics in the philosophy of mind such as the mind-body relationship, mental causation, or the metaphysics of consciousness, but can every time only focus on one or several concrete mental states such as perception, attention, memory, or emotions. Likewise, the attention of the course will not just be paid to traditional topics such as intentionality, qualia, representation, etc., but cutting-edge or interdisciplinary themes such as cognitive phenomenology, cognitive penetration, or blindsight can also be covered. The spring semester of 2022 will be devoted to pleasure and pain, two widespread and significant experiences. In addition to discussing their essence and characteristics, we plan to consider related issues like “the paradox of tragedy” or “pain asymbolia”. The discussion tends to focus primarily on recent research, but some historical resources (such as Aristotle and Hume), when necessarily, will not be ignored. Participants are expected to be willing to read texts in English and participate actively in the discussion.

Goals

- Provide an introduction to philosophy of pleasure and pain as well as a survey, analysis, and evaluation of many related topics;
- Reveal the richness of the field of philosophy of mind in addition to the well-known metaphysics of mind;
- Demonstrate the connection among philosophy of mind, other areas of philosophy and other sciences;
- Provide students with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in analysis, presentation, and writing in the field of contemporary philosophy.

Plan

Week 1: Introduction

Aydede, M. “Pain and Pleasure”, *Routledge Handbook of Emotion Theory*, Routledge, 2023

Week 2: Aristotle’s Attempt

Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* X 1-5

Week 3: Neo-Aristotelianism

Ryle, G., 1954a, “Pleasure”, Ch. 4 in *Dilemmas: The Tarner Lectures*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 54–67.

—1954b, “Pleasure”, *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, 28 (Supplement.): 135–146

Week 4: The Felt-Quality Views of Pleasure

Bramble, B. (2011). “The distinctive feeling theory of pleasure,” *Philosophical Studies*, 162(2): 201–217.

Labukt, I. (2012). "Hedonic Tone and the Heterogeneity of Pleasure," *Utilitas*, 24(02): 172–199.

Week 5: Attitudinal Views of Pleasure

Feldman, F. (1997). "On the Intrinsic Value of Pleasures," *Ethics*, 107: 448–466.

Heathwood, C. (2007). "The reduction of sensory pleasure to desire". *Philosophical Studies*, 133, 23–44.

Week 6: Paradox of Tragedy

Aristotle: *Poetics* 6;

Smuts, A. (2007). "The paradox of painful art". *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, 41, 59–77.

Feagin, S. (1983) "The Pleasures of Tragedy," *American Philosophical Quarterly* 20 (1), 95-110

Week 7: Masochistic Pleasure

Klein, C. "The Penumbra Theory of Masochistic Pleasure". *Rev.Phil.Psych.* 5, 41–55 (2014).

Week 8: Pain between Scientific Research

Melzack, R. and P. D. Wall (1965) "Pain Mechanisms: A New Theory," *Science* 150 (3699): 971–79.

Raja SN, et al. (2020), "The revised International Association for the Study of Pain definition of pain: concepts, challenges, and compromises," *Pain* 161(9):1976-1982.

Week 9: Perceptual Theories of Pain

Pitcher, G.,1970. "Pain Perception," *The Philosophical Review*, 79(3): 368–393.

Hill, C., 2004. "Ouch! An Essay on Pain," in *Higher Order Theories of Consciousness*, J. Gennaro (ed.), Amsterdam: John Benjamins: 339–362.

Week 10: Representational Theory of Pain and the Paradox of Pain

Cutter, B. and Tye, M. (2011) "Tracking representationalism and the painfulness of pain". *Philosophical Issues* 21: 90–109

Week 11: Imperative Theory of Pain

Bain, D. 2011. "The Imperative View of Pain", *Consciousness Studies* 18, 164-85.

Klein, C. 2007. "An Imperative Theory of Pain", *Journal of Philosophy* 104, 517-532.

Week 12: Pain Asymbolia

Grahek, N., 2007. *Feeling Pain and Being in Pain*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, Ch.4

Klein, C., (2015). "What Pain Asymbolia Really Shows". *Mind* 124 (494): 493-516.

Week 13: Pain Eliminativism

Corns, J., 2013. "The Inadequacy of Unitary Characterizations of Pain," *Philosophical Studies*, 169 (3): 355–78.

—, 2015. "Pain eliminativism: Scientific and Traditional," *Synthese*, 193(9): 2949–2971.

Week 14 Animal Pain

Michel, M. (2018) "Fish and Microchips: On fish pain and multiple realization," *Philosophical Studies*, 176, 2411–2428.

Tye, M. 2017, *Tense bees and shell-shocked crabs: are animals conscious?* Oxford, Ch.5 and 6.

Week 15 The Evaluation of Pain

Bradford, G. (2020). "The badness of pain." *Utilitas*, 32(2), 236-252.

Requirements and Assessment

Final grades will be determined by 3 components:

—Participation 40% (presentation, question-raising, response, discussion, etc.)

—Final Papers 60%: Research Article (4500 words in English or 7000 in Chinese for graduate student;

3500 words in English or 5000 in Chinese for undergraduate students)

The due-dates for the paper: 22th June, 2022, 11: 59 pm (undergraduate students); 15th July, 2022, 11: 59 pm (graduate students)

Formal requirement:

—1.5 spaced, character 12, a unified form of reference (Chicago, APA, or others)

Participation: You are expected to prepare for class in advance of classroom discussions by reading and studying assigned materials before class (usually one or two research papers or book chapters, sometimes with additional materials in handouts). I do not expect complete mastery of the whole content, but it is obligatory to read the required texts in advance. Given that many of the readings will be difficult and challenging, it is acceptable not to immediately understand everything you read. However, you are also encouraged to come to class with questions and comments about the readings. That is to say, everyone should try their best to make substantial comments and be a positive contributor to the overall conversations.

Final Papers: The papers will be your chance to practice your writing skill and develop your thoughts at greater length. All the students should first discuss with me in advance about your topic and bibliography. The topic should focus only one position or argument on pleasure/pain, which can be based on your presentation in the seminar.

Additional Explanation:

1) If you have good reason for being unable to submit work by a deadline, you must come discuss this with me well in advance (**at least one week**) so that we can agree on a rearrangement. You will not be able to contact me at the last minute about this. If we do not agree to a new deadline, you will lose marks (**10% per day** – including weekends – for essays; late responses will get no marks at all). The only exceptions to this will be for serious and well-documented emergencies.

2) Please submit **an outline of the paper with key bibliography (two pages)** before writing. If you have not yet read Jim Pryor' *Guidelines* on writing a philosophy paper. Please read it before you start writing. The grade will depend on your selection of the topic, your clarity of your presentation and on the quality of your argument. A mere summary – even if completely on point – won't get you above B-.

Academic Honesty: You are responsible for understanding PKU policies on academic integrity. Not knowing the rules, misunderstanding the rules, running out of time, submitting “the wrong draft”, or being overwhelmed with multiple demands, *etc.* are not acceptable excuses. In particular, there are no excuses for failure to uphold academic integrity. **Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. And the penalty for it will be very severe.** To support your learning about academic citation rules, please read ‘Avoiding Plagiarism’ in H. Ramsey: *The Little, Brown Handbook*, Pearson, pp. 629-38 or visit *Oxford Academic Good Practice: A Practical Guide* (https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/field/field_document/Academic%20good%20practice%20a%20practical%20guide_0.pdf).

On-line tools: *Philpapers*, *The Philosopher's Index*, *Oxford Bibliographies*

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP), *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (IEP)