Curso de Pós-Graduação – Depto. de Filosofia – 2º semestre de 2019 (in English)

FLF5256 – Philosophy and History of MindBrain Science (Filosofia e História da Ciência do Mentencéfalo)

Prof. Osvaldo Pessoa Jr. (room 2007) – opessoa@usp.br – 2nd semester, 2019 Wednesdays 2 PM – 6 PM, room 10, http://opessoa.fflch.usp.br/MindBrain-19

The next large-scale revolution in science might take place within what is sometimes called "MindBrain science", encompassing approaches from neuroscience, psychology, cognitive science, and philosophy of mind. What is the nature of consciousness and how does it arise in the brain? Are the immediate brain correlates of consciousness located somewhere in the cortex or in subcortical regions, or does consciousness emerge globally? What clues are given by altered states of consciousness? The course will start with an introduction to the philosophy of mind, emphasizing thought-experiments and definitions, from a materialist perspective. Twentieth-century neuroscience will be explored historically, and contemporary views from neuroscientists and neurophilosophers will be studied.

	Date	Topics and Readings (preliminar version)
Class 1	Aug. 14	Introduction. Can machines have consciousness? Functionalism. Adrian: homogeneity thesis. Reading: SPERRY (1952, p. 291-96)
		(Professor is traveling)
Class 2Aug. 28		Materialism x spiritualism. Parallelism & supervenience. British dualism. Rise and fall of psychophysical parallelism in Germany.
		(Holiday: Independence Week)
Class 3	Sep. 11	The doctrine of primary properties. Qualia and inverted spectra. Penfield: centrencephalic hypothesis.
Class 4	Sep. 18	The hard problem and the explanatory gap. Qualia and Mary's room thought experiment. Molyneux's problem. Du Bois-Reymond's unsolvable problems.
Class 5	Sep. 25	Mind-brain identity theory. Köhler's psychophysical isomorphism.
Class 6	Oct. 02	Panpsychism & panprotopsychism. Rise and fall of research on the reticular formation.
(Break for the Philosophy of Probability Conference at IEA/USP)		
Class 7	Oct. 16	Intentionality. Sperry: split-brain experiments. The rise of cognitive science.
		(Professor is traveling)
Class 8	Oct. 30 R	eduction x emergence. The neural correlates of consciousness (Koch, etc.)
		(Professor is traveling)
Class 9	Nov. 13	Libet: antedating. Neuroscience of time perception.
Class 10	Nov. 20	Epiphenomenalism. Freedom of action and of will. Libet's experiments on free-will.
Class 11	Nov. 27	Brenda Milner and memory.
Class 12	Dec. 04	Dreams: Hobson's research program.