

Instructor:	David Barnett
Email:	barnettd@union.edu
Course Website:	www.davidjamesbar.net/M&R
Office Hours:	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during Common Hour Lamont House 203
Course Description:	How do you know that the world really is the way it subjectively appears to you? How do you know that other people have minds, and that they perceive reality the same way that you do? What is the relationship between the mind and the brain? Is it possible for your mind to survive the death of your body and brain? In this course, we will address these and other questions about the relationship between the subjective experiences in our own minds and the objective reality outside them.
Readings	(Chalmers) <i>Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings, 2nd ed.</i> , edited by David J. Chalmers (D&W) <i>Skepticism: A Contemporary Reader</i> , edited by Keith DeRose and Ted A. Warfield Other readings will be made available by email or as in-class handouts (as noted below).
Class Participation:	Mind and Reality is a discussion-based course, and 15% of each student's final grade will be determined by the positive contribution he or she makes to classroom discussions.
Student Writing:	Although the course features reading assignments from a variety of writing styles, including dialogues and short stories, student papers must be written in the style of a "normal" argumentative essay. Students are strongly encouraged to set appointments with me and to visit the Writing Center on the second floor of the Schaffer Library.
Grading:	Aside from the 15% of your grade determined by class participation, your final grade will be determined by a short paper and a multi-stage research project. Further details will be discussed in class. 10%: first draft of short paper (2 pgs) 10%: revised draft of short paper (2 pgs) 10%: statement of research project (2 pgs) 10%: written literature review (3 pgs) 15%: rough draft of final paper (8 pgs) 30%: final paper (8-10 pgs) 15%: class participation

Accommodations: It is the policy of Union College to make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please bring your accommodation ID card to your instructor's office hours as soon as possible. Your instructor will then discuss with you any necessary special arrangements. No accommodations will be provided to students who do not have an accommodation ID card from the Office of Student Support Services (x8785).

Class Schedule

Week 1	Class introduction
09/12 (Th)	no reading
Week 2	How do you know about other minds?
09/17 (Tu)	Terrel Miedaner, <i>The Soul of Martha, a Beast</i> (handout) Terrel Miedaner, <i>The Soul of the Mark III Beast</i> (handout)
09/19 (Th)	Raymond Smullyan, 'An Epistemological Nightmare' (handout) Brian Aldiss, <i>Supertoys Last All Summer Long</i> (website)
due:	first draft of 2 pg short paper
Week 3	How do you know about your own mind?
09/24 (Tu)	Rene Descartes, <i>First Meditation</i> (website) John Pollock, 'A Brain in a Vat' (handout)
09/26 (Th)	Rene Descartes, <i>Second Meditation</i> (Chalmers 1) Eric Schwitzgebel, 'The Unreliability of Naive Introspection' (website)
Week 4	Do you have an immaterial soul?
10/01 (Tu)	Descartes, <i>Sixth Meditation</i> (Chalmers 1)
10/03 (Th)	David Papineau, <i>Thinking about Consciousness</i> excerpt (handout) Raymond Smullyan, <i>An Unfortunate Dualist</i> (Chalmers 4)
due:	second draft of 2 pg short paper
Week 5	The mind-body problem and arguments for dualism
10/08 (Tu)	Thomas Nagel, 'What Is It Like to Be a Bat?' (Chalmers 25)
10/10 (Th)	Frank Jackson, 'Epiphenomenal Qualia' (Chalmers 28)
Week 6	More arguments for dualism and the phenomenal concepts strategy
10/15 (Tu)	Saul Kripke, 'Naming and Necessity' excerpt (Chalmers 32)

10/17 (Th)	Saul Kripke, 'Naming and Necessity' excerpt (continued)
Week 7	More on the phenomenal concepts strategy
10/22 (Tu) due:	Saul Kripke, 'Naming and Necessity' excerpt (continued) 2 pg statement of research project
10/24 (Th)	Katalin Balog, 'Conceivability, Possibility, and the Mind-Body Problem' (website)
Week 8	The unity of consciousness
10/29 (Tu) due:	Katalin Balog, 'Conceivability, Possibility, and the Mind-Body Problem' (continued) 3 pg literature review
10/31 (Th)	David Chalmers, 'Phenomenal Concepts and the Explanatory Gap' (handout) Peter Carruthers and Bénédicte Veillet, 'The Phenomenal Concept Strategy' (website)
Week 9	How do you know about the world outside your own mind?
11/05 (Tu) due:	Greg Egan, <i>Learning to Be Me</i> (website) rough draft of 8 pg final paper
11/07 (Th)	Keith DeRose, 'Introduction: Responding to Skepticism' (D&W 1)
Week 10	Responses to external world skepticism
11/12 (Tu)	Jonathan Vogel, 'Cartesian Skepticism and Inference to the Best Explanation' (website) Berent Enc, 'Is Realism the Best Hypothesis?' (website)
11/14 (Th)	G. E. Moore, 'Proof of an External World' (website)
Week 11	More responses to external world skepticism
11/19 (Tu) due:	Gail Fine, 'Skepticism, Relevant Alternatives, and Deductive Closure' (D&W 9) 8-10 pg final paper