

## SPACE, BODY, AND THE SELF

Spring 2014, Phil 381

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 12:30-2, and by apt.

Office: Wheatley 5-008

Professor Steven Levine

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### Course Description

In this class we are going to examine how a self can be consciously aware of objects in space, of their own mental states, and their bodies. While interested in understanding these forms of awareness for their own sake, the class also focuses on their inter-relation, i.e., on whether and how our awareness of the spatial world is related to our awareness of our mental and bodily states. We begin with the Kantian idea that for selves to be aware of enduring objects in space (and time) they must be self-conscious subjects. To examine this idea we will read the important late Twentieth Century philosophers P. F. Strawson and G. Evans. We will then examine what it is to be aware or conscious of ourselves. When one is conscious of oneself rather than an independent object what is one conscious *of* and *how* is one conscious of it? These are puzzling questions. To examine them we will read, in addition to Strawson and Evans, D. M. Armstrong, S. Shoemaker, and L. Wittgenstein. Finally, we will examine our awareness of our bodies and the role that such awareness plays in our experience of the spatial world. To examine this idea we will read the contemporary philosophers in both the analytical and phenomenological traditions.

### Required Texts

- P. F. Strawson, *Individuals*, Routledge Press.
- All other readings posted on my website: <http://faculty.www.umb.edu/steven.levine/>

### Course Outline (This is subject to revision)

Week	Date	Class Theme and Activities	Assignment
Week 1	Jan. 28 30	Review of Syllabus and themes of the Course	P. F. Strawson, <i>Individuals</i> , Chapter 1, 15-30
Week 2	Feb. 4 6	Identification of Particulars	P. F. Strawson, <i>Individuals</i> , Chapter 1, 31-58  Optional: B. Williams, "Strawson on Individuals"
Week 3	Feb. 11 13	Space and Objectivity	P. F. Strawson, <i>Individuals</i> , Chapter 2
Week 4	Feb. 18 20	Space and Objectivity	G. Evans, 'Things Without the Mind'  Optional: Q. Cassam, 'Space and Objective Experience'

Week 5	Feb. 25 <i>No Class</i> <i>Feb. 27</i>	Egocentric Space and Objective Space	G. Evans, 'Egocentric Space', from the <i>Varieties of Reference</i>  Optional: J. Cambell, 'The Role of Physical Objects in Spatial Thinking'
Week 6	March 4 6	Space, Objectivity, and the Self	Selections from P. F. Strawson, <i>The Bounds of Sense</i>  Optional: P. F. Strawson 'Imagination and Perception'
Week 7	March 11-13	OPEN WEEK	
	March 15-23	SPRING BREAK	
Week 8	March 25-27	Persons	P. F. Strawson, <i>Individuals</i> , Chapter 3  Optional: P. Hacker, 'Strawson's Concept of a Person'
Week 9	April 1, 3	Introspection and the Self	D. M. Armstrong, 'Introspection' S. Shoemaker, 'Introspection and the Self'
Week 10	April 8 <i>No Class</i> <i>April 10</i>	The Self as Subject and as Object  <i>April 10: Withdrawal Date</i>	S. Shoemaker, 'Self-Reference and Self-Awareness'
Week 11	April 15 17	Evans: Self-Reference and Bodily Awareness	G. Evans, 'Self-Identification', From the <i>Varieties of Reference</i>  Optional: L. O'Brian, 'Evans on Self-Identification'
Week 12	April 22 24	Bodily Awareness and the Self	B. Brewer, 'Bodily Awareness and the Self' Martin, "Bodily Awareness: A Sense of Ownership"
Week 13	April 29 May 1	Proprioception and Bodily Awareness	O'Shaughnessy, 'Proprioception and the Body Image' S. Gallagher, 'Bodily Self-Awareness and Object Perception'

Week 14	May 6 8	Body, Self, and World	D. Legrand, 'The Bodily Self: The Sensori-motor Roots of Pre-reflective Self-consciousness'
Week 15	May 13	Open Class	

### Assessable Tasks

1. Class attendance and participation, 20%
2. A 6-8 page paper, due **March 27<sup>th</sup>**, 30%
3. A 10-12 page final paper, due during exam week (exact date to be specified), 50%

### Attendance Policy

Your presence in class is a minimum condition of your success in this course. Attendance as well as lateness will be noted and factored into your final grade, as follows:

- 4 absences: final grade lowered by ½ grade (e.g. from B- to C+)
- 5 absences: final grade lowered by a full grade (e.g. from B- to C-)
- 6 absences: failure; no credit given

In general, the distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences is not recognized (an absence is an absence). Repeated lateness in arriving to class will count as an absence and *chronic lateness* will result in the loss of one whole letter grade on one’s final grade.

### Other Important Information

1. Unless otherwise noted readings, handouts, assignments, and other announcements will be posted on my website which can be reached by clicking the link on my faculty page located on the UMB philosophy department website or at this address:  
<http://faculty.www.umb.edu/steven.levine/>
2. You need to have a working UMB email so that I can contact you through the wiser system.
3. The readings for this class are listed above by the week. If homework is not explicitly assigned in class, these readings are your homework. The reading schedule may change due to events. If it does I will update the schedule on my website.
4. I only give incompletes if there is a really good reason like family emergency.
5. Unless an arrangement is made with me, a paper will be penalized a whole grade if it is up to one week late. Thereafter, it will be penalized a whole grade each additional week that it is late. *I do not accept emailed papers unless I explicitly agree to it.*

### Policy on Academic Honesty

Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s work as your own. You need to be careful to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism. This means that if you ever use a phrase, a sentence, or an idea from a text, you must provide a citation. If it is something we read for the class, it is acceptable to give the source and page number. E.g.: (Rawls, “The Justification of Civil Disobedience, p. 100). When utilizing other material, you must provide full bibliographic information of that text. If you don’t provide appropriate citations, this will affect your grade. If you have gone so far as to misrepresent another person’s work as your own by copying from another’s paper, using a paper writing service, copying something off the web or out of a book or in any other way I will assume you intend to commit plagiarism and will give you an ‘F.’