

# Mind and Consciousness

Day 1 – Nature of Mind

# Mind

What kind of thing is a “mind”?

- It has “mental states”
- “Mental events” take place within it

# Mind

What kind of thing is a “mind”?

– It has “mental states”

- Beliefs

my belief that the sun will set later today

my belief that I am not at Busch Gardens

– “Mental events” take place within it

# Mind

What kind of thing is a “mind”?

– It has “mental states”

- Beliefs

  - my belief that the sun will set later today

  - my belief that I am not at Busch Gardens

- Emotions

  - my love for my children

  - my fear of spiders

– “Mental events” take place within it

# Mind

What kind of thing is a “mind”?

– “Mental events” take place within it

- Imaginings, Dreams and Memories

I see a herd of buffalo in the clouds

I dreamt I talked to Socrates last night

I remember my third grade teacher

# Mind

What kind of thing is a “mind”?

– “Mental events” take place within it

- Imaginings, Dreams and memories

I see a herd of buffalo in the clouds

I dreamt I talked to Socrates last night

I remember my third grade teacher

- Perceptions and Sensations

I am seeing a red rubber ball

I feel a dull ache in my tooth

# Body

What kind of thing is a “body”?

- It has “physical states”
- “Physical events” take place within it

# Body

What kind of thing is a “body”?

– It has “physical states”

- Temperature

My temperature was 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit

- Weight

I weigh about 150 pounds

– “Physical events” take place within it

# Body

What kind of thing is a “body”?

– “Physical events” take place within it

- Blood flow

My heart rate is 70 beats per minute

- Neuron activity

A neuron storm in my brain caused my seizure

- Growth and decay

Justin grew 3 inches last year

Dad has arthritis in his knees

# What's the difference?

Many mental states and events exhibit  
**intentionality.**

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They are “about”, or are “directed toward”,  
or “refer” to something or someone.

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# What's the difference?

Many mental states and events exhibit  
**intentionality.**

They are “about”, or are “directed toward”,  
or “refer” to something or someone.

my belief that the sun will set later today

**is about the sun**

my belief that I am not at Busch Gardens

**refers to Busch Gardens**

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Many mental states and events exhibit  
**intentionality.**

They are “about”, or are “directed toward”,  
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my love for my children

my fear of spiders

# What's the difference?

Many mental states and events exhibit  
**intentionality.**

They are “about”, or are “directed toward”,  
or “refer” to something or someone.

my love for my children

is directed toward my children

my fear of spiders

is directed toward spiders

# What's the difference?

Many mental states and events exhibit  
**intentionality.**

They are “about”, or are “directed toward”,  
or “refer” to something or someone.

I see a herd of buffalo in the clouds

I dreamt I talked to Socrates last night

I remember my third grade teacher

# What's the difference?

Many mental states and events exhibit **intentionality**.

They are “about”, or are “directed toward”, or “refer” to something or someone.

I see a herd of buffalo in the clouds

refers to clouds and their shapes

I dreamt I talked to Socrates last night

the dream was about Socrates

I remember my third grade teacher

it's a memory of my third grade teacher

# What's the difference?

Many mental states and events exhibit  
**intentionality.**

They are “about”, or are “directed toward”,  
or “refer” to something or someone.

I am seeing a red rubber ball

I feel a dull ache in my tooth

# What's the difference?

Many mental states and events exhibit  
**intentionality.**

They are “about”, or are “directed toward”,  
or “refer” to something or someone.

I am seeing a red rubber ball

refers to a rubber ball I am seeing

I feel a dull ache in my tooth

are aches and pains intentional ?

# What's the difference?

Physical states and events do not seem to exhibit **intentionality**.

They are not “about”, are not “directed toward”, and do not “refer” to something or someone.

My temperature was 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit

She weighs about 110 pounds

A neuron storm in his brain caused his seizure

My heart rate is 70 beats per minute

# What's the difference?

My temperature was 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit

temperature is not directed toward anything

She weighs about 110 pounds

weight does not refer to anything

A neuron storm in his brain caused his seizure

a neuron storm is not about anything

My heart rate is 70 beats per minute

a heart rate does is not directed toward anything

# What's the difference?

Physical objects like our bodies have have  
**extension**

They occupy space, having *volume* and *mass*.

They may have velocity, temperature, or electrical charge.

These properties of extended objects do not seem to apply to mental states or events.

# What's the difference?

Physical objects like our bodies have have  
**extension**

They occupy space, having *volume* and *mass*.

They may have velocity, temperature, or electrical charge.

These properties of extended objects do not seem to apply to mental states or events.

my belief that I am not at Busch Gardens

does not have volume or mass

my fear of spiders

does not have a velocity or a temperature

# What's the difference?

Physical objects like our bodies have have  
**extension**

They occupy space, having *volume* and *mass*.

They may have velocity, temperature, or electrical charge.

These properties of extended objects do not seem to apply to mental states or events.

I remember my third grade teacher

**my memory does not have volume or mass**

I feel a dull ache in my tooth

**the ache does not have a temperature or electric charge**

# What's the difference?

Human minds, at least, have **consciousness**.

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Human minds, at least, have **consciousness**.

- Human minds are sometimes aware of their own states and events

# What's the difference?

Human minds, at least, have **consciousness**.

- Human minds are sometimes aware of their own states and events
  - I know that I am looking at a cup of coffee
  - I am aware of my fear of spiders
  - I realize that I'm imagining buffalo in the clouds

# What's the difference?

Human minds, at least, have **consciousness**.

- Human minds are sometimes aware of their own states and events
- There is something that it's like to be in a mental state or have a mental event

There is something that it's like to have a toothache

There is something that it's like to be in love

There is something that it's like to be afraid

# What's the difference?

Physical objects do not seem to have **consciousness.**

- Physical objects do not seem to be aware of their own states and events

A red rubber ball is not aware of its color

An ice cube is not aware of its temperature

A heart is not aware of its rate of pumping blood

# What's the difference?

Physical objects do not seem to have **consciousness**.

- Physical objects do not seem to be aware of their own states and events
- There doesn't seem to be anything that it's like for a physical object to be in a particular physical state, or to undergo a physical event

There isn't anything it's like to be a charged battery  
It isn't like anything it's like to be a melting ice cube

# Dualism vs Reductionism

- **Dualism** maintains that mind and body are distinct kinds of things; that minds have mental states and undergo mental events, but have no physical properties. Bodies have physical properties and undergo physical events, but have no mental properties.

# Dualism vs Reductionism

- **Reductionism** holds that, in fact, all mental states and events are just physical states and physical events in a body, so that a mind is a physical object (a brain in a body).

# Dualism vs Reductionism

- **Dualism**

A dualist theory needs to explain  
*mind-body interaction*

If a mind has no physical properties, how can it interact with the body? How can the senses communicate information to the mind? How can the mind move the body?

# Dualism vs Reductionism

- **Reductionism**

A reductionist theory needs to explain  
*consciousness and intentionality*

How can a physical property be aware of itself?  
How can there be something that it is like to be  
a physical object? How can a physical property  
or event be “about” something else?