

## Embodiment

Beginning perhaps with Aristotle, and finding detailed expression in 20th century phenomenology, the importance of the body for human mental life has been an important theme in the Western philosophical tradition. In the late 20th century, this theme started to gain more attention in the empirical sciences of the mind as well. In this course we will consider some of the main results from this recent shift in methodology. The course will begin with a look at the early philosophical work which emphasized the embodied nature of human cognition. Then we will turn to various lines of thought which fall under the general description of embodied cognition. These lines of thought include cognitive semantics, vehicle externalism, enactivism, and perceptually based theories of mind. We will also carefully distinguish different levels of embodiment as relevant for experimental research in bodily illusions and virtual reality.

Introductory text:

Clark, A. *Being There*. MIT Press, 1997.

Course texts (selected):

Gallagher, S. *How the Body Shapes the Mind*. Oxford University Press, 2005.

Lakoff, G. and Johnson, M. *Metaphors We Live By*. University of Chicago Press, 1980.

Varela, F., Thompson, E., Rosch, E. *The Embodied Mind*. MIT Press, 1992.

**21 April 2011**

**Introduction to Embodiment**

**28 April 2011**

**Aristotle on the Body**

*Physics* 192b8 - 193b20

*On the Soul* 422b20 - 424b22, 432a20 - 433b30

**5 May 2011**

**Phenomenology of the Body**

Husserl, E. Husserliana XI §3

Merleau-Ponty, M. Phenomenology of Perception Part I Chapter 1 "The Body as Object and Mechanistic Physiology"

**12 May 2011**

**Primary Intersubjectivity**

Gallagher, S. *How the Body Shapes the Mind* Chapters 3 and 9

**19 May 2011**

**Embodied Cognitive Science**

Brooks? references from von Hippel

Clark, A. Introduction, Chapter 1 Being There MIT Press, 1997.

**26 May 2011**

**Vehicle Externalism about Content**

Clark, A. and Chalmers, D. "The Extended Mind"

Adams, F. and Aizawa, K. "

**9 June 2011**

**Vehicle Externalism about Phenomenality**

Noë, A. *Action in Perception* Chapter 7

Block, N. (2005) "Review of Alva Noë Action in Perception" Journal of Philosophy 5, 259-272.

**16 June 2011**

**Enactivism**

Thompson, E. "Life and mind: From autopoiesis to neurophenomenology. A tribute to Francisco Varela" Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences 3 (2004) 381-398.

**30 June 2011**

**Levels of Embodiment**

Metzinger, T. "Self models" (2007), Scholarpedia, 2(10): 4174

**7 July 2011**

**Misrepresenting the Body**

Metzinger, T. Chapter 7 Being No One MIT Press, 2003.

**14 July 2011**

**Presence and Virtual Reality**

Slater, M "Place illusion and plausibility can lead to realistic behaviour in immersive virtual environments" (2009) Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B

Sanchez-Vives, M. and Slater, M. "From presence to consciousness through virtual reality" (2005) Nature Reviews Neuroscience

**21 July 2011**

**Cognitive Semantics**

Lakoff, G. and Johnson, M. Chapters 1, 6,12,13, 26 *Metaphors We Live By*. University of Chicago Press, 1980.

Gärdenfors, P. Chapter 5 Conceptual Spaces MIT Press, 2000.