PHIL001. Introduction to Philosophy – Objections to Dualism & Materialisms, pp. 144–148, 153–155, 7/18/11

Group 1, pp.138–144: Is Dualism compatible with physical determinism?

First, define dualistic interactionalism (DI). Second, define physical determinism and briefly explaining how it is different from the forms of determinism discussed in the chapter on Freedom & Determinism. Third, assuming that physical determinism is true, explain how the DI characterizes the following scenario: John sees a bucket by his foot; he decides to kick the bucket; then he kicks the bucket (see pp.139–140). Finally, assuming physical determinism is true, characterize the objection to dualism on p.140.

Group 2, pp.138–144: Is Dualism compatible with physical indeterminism?

[see separate handout]

Group 3, pp.144-148: What is Identity Theory?

First, define materialism. Second, define the identity theory (IT). Illustrate this theory by drawing a diagram on the board that shows how any mental state is nothing but a neurophysiological state. Next, using diagrams you've drawn on the board to illustrate, explain the two objections to IT theory (see pp.147–148). Finally, how does the IT theory characterize the following sentences (come up with an IT paraphrase):

- (1) John *believes* that there is a bucket by his foot.
- (2) John is in love with Mary
- (3) John is thinking about buying a new car.

Group 4, pp.144-145, 153–155: What is Non-Reductive and Eliminative Materialism?

First, define materialism. Second, explain the What-Mary-Didn't-Know Argument. Third, define non-reductive materialism and explain how the What-Mary-Didn't-Know Argument is thought to support non-reductive materialism. In defining non-reductive materialism, take a look at the definition of dualism (pp.135–136) and the claim that mental states are totally separable from material states. Finally, define eliminative materialism (p.155). What does it claim about mental states? How plausible are both of these theories?