Philosophy 345
Language and Mind

Prof. James Joyce

PHIL 345 studies the structure of language, the nature of meaning, and the relations among language, thought, and the world. The course has two main objectives. The first is to provide students with a broad overview of the main problems in the philosophy of language and philosophy of mind. In philosophy of language we will focus mainly on the theory of reference and its relation to questions about belief. In philosophy of mind we will discuss physicalism, dualism, behaviorism, the identity theory, functionalist accounts of the mind, and the hard problem of explaining conscious experience. A second, but equally important, goal of the course is to help students develop their skills at careful reading, critical reasoning, and argumentative writing.

PHIL 345 is open to undergraduate students who have completed a course in philosophy or who have obtained permission of the instructor.