Philosophy of Mind Comprehensive Exam Reading List


All of the readings listed below can be found in Chalmers, ed., Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings (Oxford University Press, 2002).

Dualism
Descartes, René. Meditations on First Philosophy (II and VI)
---: Passions of the Soul (Excerpt)

Epiphenomenalism
Huxley, Thomas. “On the Hypothesis that Animals are Automata, and Its History” (Excerpt)

Behaviorism
Ryle, Gilbert. “Descartes’ Myth”
Carnap, Rudolf. “Psychology in Physical Language” (Excerpt)
Putnam, Hilary. “Brains and Behavior”

Identity Theory
Place, U. T. “Is Consciousness a Brain Process?”
Smart, J. J. C. “Sensations and Brain Processes”
Feigl, Herbert. “The ‘Mental’ and the ‘Physical’” (Excerpt)

Functionalism
Putnam, Hilary. “The Nature of Mental States”
Lewis, David. “Psychophysical and Theoretical Identifications”
Block, Ned. “Troubles with Functionalism” (Excerpt)

Emergentism
Broad, C. D. “Mechanism and Its Alternatives” (Excerpt)

Anomalous Monism
Davidson, Donald. “Mental Events”

Consciousness
Nagel, Thomas. “What Is It Like to Be a Bat?”
Jackson, Frank. “Epiphenomenal Qualia”
Kripke, Saul A. Naming and Necessity (Excerpt)
Levine, Joseph. “Materialism and Qualia: The Explanatory Gap”
McGinn, Colin. “Can We Solve the Mind-Body Problem?”

Intentionality
Brentano, Franz. “The Distinction between the Mental and the Physical” (Excerpt)
Chisholm, Roderick M. “Intentional Inexistence” (Excerpt)
Burge, Tyler. “Individualism and the Mental” (Excerpt)
Fodor, Jerry A. “Propositional Attitudes”
In addition, the following articles in the Stanford Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy should be very helpful: