

Consciousness

Philosophy 481, Fall Term

Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 – 1.30 pm

Storrs McCall

What status does consciousness have in the ontology of the world? For a Cartesian dualist, the mind and the body are distinct substances, and yet they interact. For a contemporary scientist, mental events are generated by electro-chemical events in the brain. Neurologists seek the “neural correlates of consciousness” (NCC). Could an artificial intelligence be created, a robot that was conscious? How far down the evolutionary scale does consciousness extend? Dogs are conscious. But are frogs? Mosquitos? Readings will include, among others, Searle, *The Rediscovery of the Mind*, and *The Mystery of Consciousness*.

Room: LEA 541