

# Antiphysicalism

Advanced BA course  
Eötvös Loránd University, fall 2018/19  
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Physicalism (also known as materialism) is the view that everything that exists is material or physical. Physicalists often assume, in addition, that every phenomenon in the world can (in principle) be explained on the basis of natural science. Antiphysicalism or antimaterialism is the negation of this view. The course provides an overview of contemporary antiphysicalist arguments, covering topics in the philosophy of mind, moral philosophy, metaphysics, and the philosophy of biology.

Requirements: attendance (80% of classes), in-class presentation (40 minutes).

Weekly schedule:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 From material composition to dualism  
Howard Robinson: "Are there any Fs?"
- 3 Platonism  
James Robert Brown: *Philosophy of Mathematics* (2nd ed.), ch.2
- 4 Phenomenal consciousness  
Howard Robinson: *From the Knowledge Argument to Mental Substance*, ch.1.
- 5 Free will  
Peter van Inwagen: The consequence argument. (In *Metaphysics: The Big Questions*, 2nd ed, ed. van Inwagen & Zimmerman)
- 6 Meaning  
Barry Loewer: Naturalizing semantics
- 7 Morality  
J.L. Mackie: *Ethics* I.9
- 8 The ideality of matter  
Howard Robinson: *Matter and Sense*, ch.7.
- 9 The ideality of space  
Barry Dainton: *Time and Space*, ch.15.
- 10 Interlude: Buddhist idealism  
Mark Siderits: *Buddhism as Philosophy*, ch.8.
- 11 The cosmological argument  
Robin Collins: Evidence for fine-tuning. In Collins (ed): *God and Design*, 178–99.  
Timothy McGrew, Lydia McGrew, Eric Westrup: Probabilities and the fine-tuning argument: a skeptical view. In Collins (ed): *God and Design*, 201–8.

12 On evolutionary theory I: Cognition

Alvin Plantinga: The evolutionary argument against naturalism. In Beilby (ed): *Naturalism Defeated?*, 1–14.

W.J. Talbot: The illusion of defeat. In Beilby (ed): *Naturalism Defeated?*, 153–64.

13 On evolutionary theory II: The myth of selection mechanisms

Jerry Fodor & Massimo Piatelli-Palmarini: *What Darwin Got Wrong*, ch.7.