What Am I?

(21) Minds, Brains, and Selves

• Describe the dualist model of the mind

• Distinguish the two physicalist models of the mind:

  - Mind/Brain identity theory
  - Functionalism

• Describe blindsight, phantom limbs, and their implications for our understanding of the mind

(22) Minds and Machines

• Describe Artificial Intelligence (AI)

• Describe a Turing machine

• Discuss how we might distinguish minded entities from those without minds:

  - Descartes' two tests
  - The Turing test

• Explain Searle's arguments against AI:

  - The Chinese Room
  - "Syntax without semantics"
  - "Simulation is not duplication"

• Explain Dennett's "systems reply" to Searle

(23) Personal Identity

• What is the difference between a person and a human being?

• Describe and distinguish these kinds of identity: material, functional, personal.

• How do we recognize a person as the same person over time?

• Explain why personal identity could be important for questions of the afterlife.

• Explain the motivations for believing that personal identity is determined by having either the same body, or the same mind, or the same memories, or the same brain.

• Explain John Locke's account of personal identity.

• Explain where Dennett is over the course of the story.

Is There a God?

(21) Believing and Disbelieving in God

• Explain how one might justify "belief in God"

• Explain the difference between theism, atheism, and agnosticism

• Explain why belief in God might be thought problematic

  - "God of the Gaps"
  - Plurality of religions
  - Problem of evil

• Explain Durkheim's explanation of religious belief

• Explain Freud's explanation of religious belief

• Describe the three kinds of religion discussed by Einstein

(22) Faith and Reason

• Explain the different concepts of the word 'faith'. How does Aquinas understand it?

• Describe Theism, Deism, and Fideism

• Describe natural and revealed religion

• Describe general and special revelation

• Explain and evaluate Rousseau's arguments against revealed religion

• Explain the kinds of proofs of God's existence, and the philosophical positions regarding these

(23) The Argument from Design

• Describe Paley's argument for God's existence

• Explain the difference between the teleological argument and the argument from design

• Explain the features of a "machine-like structure" (MLS) and the nature of purpose.

• Explain how evolutionary biology weakens the argument from design

• Describe and evaluate the three kinds of design arguments (from the possibility of science; from the anthropic principle; from irreducible complexity)

• Describe Begley's understanding of the relationship between religion and science

(24) The Problem of Evil

• Describe the basic features of a theodicy: What is it and why is it needed?

• Explain the difference between viewing evil as an instrumental good and as a by-product of the good

• Describe and evaluate the logical argument from evil

• Describe and evaluate the evidential argument from evil

• Describe the free will defense

• Explain why Leibniz believed that we live in "the best of all possible worlds"

• Explain Ivan Karamazov's comment that he is "returning his ticket"