The Hard Problem of Intentionality

# Course Description

A striking feature of mental and linguistic representations is their intentionality, or aboutness. This course focuses on foundational questions about the nature and reducibility of intentionality: What is intentionality? What makes it the case that an arbitrary representation has the intentional or semantic properties that it does? We will investigate, *inter alia*, physicalist, functionalist and teleosemantic theories of representation, skepticism about meaning and intentionality, the phenomenal intentionality thesis, and the case for strong AI. The readings will include both classic and contemporary texts on these topics.

**Schedule**

Each week, there will be a two-hour seminar, led with a 20-30 minute presentation. A more detailed schedule TBC.

**Language**

The language of instruction will be English. Assignments may be completed in English or Swedish.

**Literature**

The course literature consists of chapters and articles written in English. Each session, there will be both a required reading, which will form the basis of the discussion, and additional background readings. A complete reading list of readings will be made available on Mondo.

# Evaluation

20% presentation in class

80% term paper

# Term Paper

The term paper should be no more than 4000 words, on any topic related to the course content. A list of topics will be provided, though students are welcome to propose alternative topics.