

Philosophy Paper 101: History of Philosophy from Descartes to Kant

3. Mind and Body

What are the main doctrines of “Cartesian Dualism”? Outline and assess Descartes’ arguments for dualism. Is it a viable theory, and what are its main problems?

READING

René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy (with Selections from the Objections and Replies)*, translated and edited by John Cottingham, Cambridge University Press, 1986 (revised edition 1996), especially the *Second Meditation* and *Sixth Meditation* and relevant *Objections and Replies* (pp. 69-77, 107-15). Also relevant parts of the “Preface to the Reader” and the “Synopsis” which precede the text.

René Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, Part 4 (any edition will do, but note that the argument in the second paragraph of this part is much cruder than that of the *Meditations*)

Gary Hatfield, *Descartes and the Meditations* (Routledge, 2003), pp. 117-40, 203-13, 237-80.

Margaret Dauler Wilson, *Descartes* (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1978), chapter VI.

John Cottingham, *Descartes* (Blackwell, 1986), chapters 4 and 5.

Marlene Rozemond, *Descartes’s Dualism* (Harvard University Press, 1998), chapter 1.

Jonathan Bennett, *Learning from Six Philosophers* (Oxford University Press, 2001), volume I chapter 4: “Descartes’s Dualisms”

John Cottingham, “Cartesian Dualism: Theology, Metaphysics and Science”, in John Cottingham (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Descartes* (Cambridge University Press, 1992), pp. 236-57.

Howard Robinson, “Dualism”, in *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ed. Edward N. Zalta (ed.), from <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/dualism/>.

Peter Smith and O.R. Jones, *The Philosophy of Mind: An Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 1986), Part I (“Dualism: For and Against”).