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### Reading Questions for February 8

These questions cover some online resources on poster sessions along with a reading by Hilary Putnam called “The Nature of Mental States.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read the Putnam more than once to get the answers.

#### *Background:*

Today we’re going to start by discussing what makes for a good poster session. Then we will read a paper by Hilary Putnam defending functionalism, which is (roughly) the view that what makes something a mental state is its role or function.

#### *Questions:*

1. We are going to be having poster presentations relatively soon, so I’ve given you some links about them on today’s calendar page. There’s no need to read all of them; they’re just supposed to help you think about the question: what are the components of a good poster presentation? In class, we’ll create a rubric for assessing poster presentations.
2. In section II (pages 433-5) Putnam introduces the view that pain is a functional state of an organism. What does he mean by this?
3. (\*) In section III (pages 435-7), Putnam contrasts his view with identity theory. What arguments does he offer against identity theory and in support of his view? Are they plausible? Why?
4. (\*) In section IV (pages 437-9), Putnam contrasts his view with behaviorism. What arguments does he offer against behaviorism and in support of his view? Are they plausible? Why?