

Philosophy of Mind

ned.block@nyu.edu

Assignment 3: 3-5 pages

Due Tuesday, September 27th

Remember:

- You must do one of the first 3 assignments. So if you did not do one of the first two, you must do this one.
- No late papers
- Use your own words—no quotations or paraphrases

This assignment is divided into two parts. Part 1 is concerned with making sure that you understand Searle's "Chinese Room" argument. The answers should be short. Most of your paper should be devoted to Part 2.

Part 1.

- a. Does Searle argue that no machine could think? ('Yes' or 'No' will suffice).
- b. In one sentence, what does Searle mean by 'Strong AI'?
- c. In one sentence, what is the *conclusion* of Searle's argument? That is, what does he take himself to have shown?
- d. In four sentences or less, summarize Searle's argument for the conclusion that you just described in c.
- e. Does Searle's viewpoint dictate that only biological systems can think?

Part 2.

What objection to Searle's argument do you think is the most powerful and why?