

PHILOSOPHY 597: PROSEMINAR
Fall 2016
Wednesdays 4:10–6:30, in 1164 Angell Hall

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Office hours: Mondays 9:30–11:30, and by appointment.

People sometimes think of the areas in contemporary analytic philosophy as resembling a far flung scattering of isolated islands. I prefer to think of them as a dense archipelago, affording great—but not always obvious—opportunities for communication, cooperation, and collaboration. In that spirit, we will take one possible voyage through the archipelago. Each week's readings are closely related to the neighboring weeks', and yet we'll manage to discuss philosophical questions about modality, morality, ideology, idealization, intention, action, explanation, causation, rationality, belief, reference, race, and conversational pragmatics.

In each week we'll have one student presentation on each reading or excerpt. Please email me your preferences over the five readings in 1a–3a, the five in 3b–5b, in 6a–7c, in 8a–10a, and in 10b–12b by September 8. This will make it easier for me to distribute presentation topics equitably. Please write up a two to three page handout for your presentations. These readings are rich, so be judicious in what you include on your handout. Aim to give an adequate lay of the land and also to advance the conversation in an interesting way. Please feel free to discuss the readings with me and with each other before your presentations! But note that I don't expect you to consult secondary sources. In fact I think you'll learn much more by focusing your attention and energy on the assigned reading.

The final paper should be a development of one of your presentations, and about 11–14 pages long. Your distribution unit for the course will be a function of your final paper's topic. The paper is due on December 15. Please discuss your plans for your paper with me by November 22. Also, I encourage you to submit a draft to me by December 5.

You should borrow or buy your own copies of Anscombe's *Intention*, Kripke's *Naming and Necessity*, and Lewis's *Counterfactuals*. I'll provide access to other readings through Canvas.

9/7	Organizational meeting, advice
9/14	1a. David Lewis, <i>Counterfactuals</i> , chapter 1 (Eduardo presenting) 1b. David Lewis, <i>Counterfactuals</i> , chapter 2 (focus on 2.3–2.5 and 2.7–2.8), chapter 3 (AJ presenting)
9/21	2a. Ruth Barcan Marcus, “Moral Dilemmas and Consistency” (Guus presenting) 2b. Angelika Kratzer, “Modality” and “Conditionals” (Elise presenting)
9/28	3a. G. E. M. Anscombe, “Modern Moral Philosophy” (Alvaro presenting) 3b. Judith Jarvis Thomson, “The Right and the Good” (Guus presenting)
10/5	4a. Susan Wolf, “Two Levels of Pluralism” (Eduardo presenting) 4b. Margaret Little, “Moral Generalities Revisited” (AJ presenting)
10/12	5a. Charles Mills, “Ideal Theory as Ideology” (Alvaro presenting) 5b. Elizabeth Anderson, “Feminist Epistemology: An Interpretation and Defense” (Elise presenting)
10/19	6a. G. E. M. Anscombe, <i>Intention</i> , §§1–31 (Guus presenting) 6b. G. E. M. Anscombe, <i>Intention</i> , §§32–52 (Alvaro presenting)
10/26	7a. David Lewis, “Causation” (AJ presenting) 7b. L. A. Paul, “Aspect Causation” (Elise presenting) 7c. Wilfrid Sellars, “Philosophy and the Scientific Image of Man” (Eduardo presenting)
11/2	8a. David Lewis, “New Work for a Theory of Universals” (Elise presenting) 8b. Ruth Millikan, “Truth Rules, Hoverflies, and the Kripke-Wittgenstein Paradox” (Alvaro presenting)
11/9	9a. Lara Buchak, “Belief, Credence, and Norms” (Eduardo presenting) 9b. Tamar Szabó Gendler, “Alief and Belief” (Guus presenting)
11/16	10a. H. P. Grice, “Logic and Conversation” (AJ presenting) 10b. Robert Stalnaker, “Indicative Conditionals” (Eduardo presenting)
11/23	Thanksgiving break (Note that the readings for 11/30 are long!)
11/30	11a. Saul Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> , chapters 1 and 2 (Elise presenting) 11b. K. Anthony Appiah, “Race, Culture, Identity” (Guus presenting)
12/7	12a. Robert Stalnaker, “Assertion” (AJ presenting) 12b. Sally Haslanger, “Ideology, Generics, and Common Ground” (Alvaro presenting)