

PHILOSOPHY 597: PROSEMINAR
Fall 2017
Thursdays 4:10–6:30, in 1164 Angell Hall

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Office hours: Wednesdays 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. But we can 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 questions about belief, meaning, value, sociality, conversational pragmatics, causation, modality, intention, explanation, rationality, experience, ethics, virtue, race, ideology, and gender. Our primary goals will be (1) to get better at drawing fruitful connections between philosophical literatures that might look distant from each other, and (2) to improve presentation skills, broadly construed.

Each meeting will have one student presentation on each reading or excerpt. By September 8, please email me your preferences over the seven readings in 1a–3b, below, the seven in 4a–6c, in 7a–9b, and in 9c–12b. This will make it easier for me to distribute presentation topics equitably. Please write up a two to three page handout for your presentations. In each presentation, aim to advance the conversation in *two* interesting ways—by asking a productive question, making a positive extension or amendment, or raising an interesting objection. Don't summarize the reading: just refresh our memory about relevant points. Please feel free to discuss the readings with me and with each other before your presentations! But I think you'll learn more by focusing your attention and energy on the assigned reading than by consulting secondary sources.

The final paper should be a development of one of your presentations, and about 12–15 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 21. Also, I encourage you to submit a draft to me by December 3.

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

9/7	Organizational meeting, advice
9/14	1a. F. P. Ramsey, "Law and Causality" (Laura) 1b. Dorothy Edgington, "On Conditionals," pp. 235–271 (Ariana) 1c. Dorothy Edgington, "On Conditionals," pp. 271–311 (Sumeet)
9/21	2a. W. V. O. Quine, "Two Dogmas of Empiricism" (Angela) 2b. Philippa Foot, "Moral Arguments" (Katie)
9/28	3a. David Lewis, "Languages and Language" (Cameron) 3b. Margaret Gilbert, "Social Convention Revisited" (Rebecca)
10/5	4a. J. L. Austin, "Other Minds" (Angela) 4b. Craig Roberts, "Context in Dynamic Interpretation" (Rebecca)
10/11* 9–11:30	5a. G. E. M. Anscombe, "Causality and Determination" (Ariana) 5b. Judith Jarvis Thomson, "Causation: Omissions" (Cameron)
10/30* 9–11:30	6a. G. E. M. Anscombe, <i>Intention</i> , §§1–18 (Katie) 6b. G. E. M. Anscombe, <i>Intention</i> , §§19–36 (Sumeet) 6c. G. E. M. Anscombe, <i>Intention</i> , §§37–52 (Laura)
11/2	7a. Saul Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> , chapter 1 (Katie) 7b. Saul Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> , chapter 2 (Rebecca) 7c. K. Anthony Appiah, "Race, Culture, Identity" (Ariana)
11/6* 9–11:30	8a. David Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals" (Cameron) 8b. Ruth Millikan, "Truth Rules, Hoverflies, and the Kripke-Wittgenstein Paradox" (Sumeet)
11/9	9a. Donald Davidson, "Thought and Talk" (Laura) 9b. Thomas Kuhn, "Possible Worlds in History of Science" (Angela) 9c. Ruth Barcan Marcus, "Some Revisionary Proposals about Belief and Believing" (Rebecca)
11/16	10a. David Lewis, "What Experience Teaches" (Ariana) 10b. L. A. Paul, Chapters 1 and 2 of <i>Transformative Experience</i> (Angela)
11/21	Deadline to discuss plans for your paper with me
11/23	Thanksgiving break
11/30	11a. Barbara Herman, "The Practice of Moral Judgment" (Katie) 11b. Martha Nussbaum, "Virtue Ethics: A Misleading Category?" (Laura)
12/3	Deadline for drafts (optional)
12/7	12a. Charles Mills, "Ideal Theory as Ideology" (Cameron) 12b. Elizabeth Anderson, "Uses of Value Judgments in Science ..." (Sumeet)
12/15	Final paper due over email

**) reminds us to note the unusual time.