

## Philosophy 611: Seminar in Current Philosophy.

Winter 2008, 4–6 p.m., Philosophy Seminar Room (1164 AH)

**Announcement** Mon. Feb. 4: Because of a conflict with a Departmental talk, the seminar for today is rescheduled to 7:30–9:30, the same day but in the evening (Mon. Feb. 4, 2008).

The seminar centers on claims that the concept of meaning is a normative concept, “fraught with ought”—and likewise for the concept of mental content, i.e. of what a person is thinking. A famous instance of the claim is in Kripke’s *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language*. We’ll examine what such a claim might mean and reasons for accepting it or rejecting it. We’ll also examine how far, if the claim is correct, meaning can be characterized in normative terms.

Two books that we are reading in the early part of the seminar:

Kripke, Saul (1982), *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language* (Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press)

Horwich, Paul (2005). *Reflections on Meaning* (Oxford: Clarendon Press).

I will be distributing draft chapters for a book on meaning and normativity.

### Rough plan for initial weeks:

- 14 January: Introduction (no reading)
- 28 January: Kripke (1982), Chaps 1, 2. Gibbard book draft, Chap. 1
- 4 February: Kripke (1982), Ch. 3. Gibbard book draft, Chaps. 2, 3  
(We meet at 7:30 p.m. because of a conflict.)
- 11 February: Horwich, Chaps. 1, 2
- 18 February: Horwich, Chaps. 3, 5
- 3 March: Horwich, Ch. 6. Gibbard “Horwich on Meaning”

**Other sessions:**

10 March: TBA

17 March: TBA

24 March: TBA

7 April: TBA

14 April: TBA

(Classes end Tue. April 15)

**Book orders:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Kripke, Saul (1982), *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language* (Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press). \$19.95

\_\_\_\_\_ Horwich, Paul (2005). *Reflections on Meaning* (Oxford: Clarendon Press). \$30.76