

Philosophy 597

Introductory Proseminar for Philosophy Graduate Students

Tues. and Thurs. 2:40 to 4:30, Angell 1164

Requirements:

6 short papers, due every two weeks on Thursday, beginning Sept. 20

Two class presentations

Occasional brief problem sets

Professors: Allan Gibbard and Eric Swanson

gibbard@umich.edu

ericsw@umich.edu

Office hours:

AG: Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 and by appt.

ES: Tuesdays 4:30-6 and by appt.

Required books:

Martinich, *Philosophy of Language*, 5th ed. (if possible)

A. J. Ayer, *Language Truth and Logic*

Saul Kripke *Naming and Necessity*

Nelson Goodman, *Fact, Fiction, and Forecast*

Brian Skyrms, *Choice and Chance*, 4th ed.

Key dates:

Classes begin: Sept. 4

Fall Study Break: Oct. 15 to 16

Thanksgiving Recess: Nov. 21 5:00 pm to Nov. 26 8:00 am

Final Meeting Dec. 11

ES away Oct. 18

Part I – Philosophy of Language via its history

Topics and Weekly Readings

Articles marked with * are the selections found in Martinich, *Philosophy of Language*. The others are available on CTools (<http://ctools.umich.edu>).

Sept. 4

Introduction; use and mention

Sept. 6

Gottlob Frege, "On Sense and Nominatum"*

Sept. 11

Bertrand Russell "On Denoting"*

Bertrand Russell "Descriptions"*

Bertrand Russell "Knowledge by Acquaintance"

Sept. 13 and 18

A.J. Ayer *Language, Truth and Logic* (excerpts)

Alonzo Church Review of Ayer, *Language, Truth and Logic*

Carl Hempel "Empiricist Criteria of Cognitive Significance: Problems and Changes"*

Sept 20

W.V. Quine "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"*

Sept. 25

W. V. Quine "Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes"* (1953)

W. V. Quine "Three Grades of Modal Involvement" (1953, in *The Ways of Paradox*, 1966)

W. V. Quine "Reference and Modality" (in *From a Logical Point of View*, 1953)

Sept. 27

P. F. Strawson, "On Referring"*

Keith Donnellan, "Reference and Definite Descriptions"*

Oct 2, 4, 9

Saul Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*. Oct. 2: Lec. I, Addenda a–c. Oct. 4. Lec. II, Ad. d–e. Oct. 9: Lec. III

Hilary Putnam "Meaning and Reference"* (Oct. 9)

Recommended: Gareth Evans, "The Causal Theory of Names"*

Oct. 11

H. P. Grice, "Logic and Conversation"*

H. P. Grice, "Indicative Conditionals"

Fall Break: Oct 16

Oct. 18

John Perry "The Problem of the Essential Indexical"*

David Lewis "Attitudes De Dicto and De Se"

Oct. 23

Stalnaker, "Pragmatic Presuppositions"

Stalnaker, "Assertion"*

Oct. 25 Confirmation and Heterogeneity

Nelson Goodman *Fact Fiction and Forecast* Chapter II, III and IV

30-Oct Week 9 Confirmation and Heterogeneity (cont.)

Brian Skyrms *Choice and Chance* ch. III and IV

1-Nov Bayesianism, causation, and Newcomb's Problem 1

Skyrms *Choice and Chance* ch. VI–VIII

6-Nov Week 10 Bayesianism, causation, and Newcomb's Problem (cont.)

Nozick, R. "Newcomb's Problem and Two Principles of Choice"

A. Gibbard and W. Harper "Counterfactuals and Two Kinds of Expected Utility"

8-Nov Causation, Counterfactuals, and Reasoning 1

David Lewis *Counterfactuals* Chapter 1 and chapter 4 (Other chapters optional but recommended)

Robert Stalnaker "A Theory of Conditionals"

13-Nov Week 11 Causation, Counterfactuals, and Reasoning (cont.)

David Lewis "Causation"

Jaegwon Kim "Causes and Counterfactuals"

15-Nov Credence and Chance

Lewis, "A Subjectivist's Guide to Objective Chance"

20-Nov Week 12 Problems in Bayesianism

D. Garber (1983). "Old Evidence and Logical Omniscience in Bayesian Confirmation Theory". In J.

Earman, ed., *Testing Scientific Theories, Minnesota Studies in Philosophy of Science* **10**, 99–131.

John Earman (1992) *Bayes or Bust*: Ch. 2 secs. 8–9 and Ch. 5 secs. 1–3, 5–7

22-Nov THANKSGIVING

27-Nov Week 13 Theories of Explanation 1

Hempel, C. and Oppenheim, P. "Studies in the Logic of Explanation"

D. Lewis "Causal Explanation"

P. Railton "Probability, Explanation, and Information"

29-Nov Theories of Explanation (cont.)

M. Friedman "Explanation and Scientific Understanding"

J. Kim "Explanatory Knowledge and Metaphysical Dependence"

4-Dec Week 14 Laws of Nature 1

Dretske, "Laws of Nature".

Shoemaker, "Causality and Properties"

6-Dec Laws of Nature (cont.)

Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals"

11-Dec Week 15, last session SUMMARY AND OVERSPILL