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
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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”*
Philosophy Proseminar, Fall 2007: Gibbard, Swanson

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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

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

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 Oppenheimer, 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