

PROSEMINAR

G83.1000
Fall 2004
Wednesdays 2-5 p.m.
Silver Center 503

INSTRUCTORS

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Fall 2004 office hours: Thursdays from 2:30-3:30 p.m. and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to provide new graduate students in the Department with an opportunity to work on the skills involved in reading, writing, and discussing philosophy. We will be reading classic papers and secondary literature from twentieth-century analytic philosophy, covering topics in philosophy of language, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, ethics, epistemology, and philosophy of science. Each week there will be one main reading and one or two secondary readings.

TEXTS

Required text: Kripke, Saul A. *Naming and Necessity*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1980.
Naming and Necessity is available for purchase at the NYU Main Bookstore. All additional readings for the course will be made available in a folder in the Department copy room.

REQUIREMENTS

Presentations. Each week a student will give a presentation on the main reading. The presentation should be focused on one or more of the questions that we hand out a week in advance, or perhaps another issue that you think of. Feel free to talk to us about your presentation the week before. Each presentation should involve a handout.

Discussion. The question sheet that we hand out a week in advance should be used in preparing for class. Even if the presenter covers only one or two of the questions, we will try to discuss all of them.

Papers. There will be five short papers due on the following dates:

- Wednesday, September 29th
- Wednesday, October 20th
- Wednesday, November 10th
- Wednesday, December 1st
- Wednesday, December 15th

Paper topics may be drawn from the discussion question sheets or you may choose your own. Suggested length is six pages. No late papers.

Grading. The course will be graded pass/fail. Everyone who attends and turns in all the papers on time will pass. No incompletes.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Wednesday, September 8th

- Organizational meeting

Wednesday, September 15th

- Frege, "On Sense and Reference"
- Russell, "Descriptions"
- Strawson, "On Referring"

Wednesday, September 22nd

- Quine, "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"
- Grice and Strawson, "In Defense of a Dogma"
- Boghossian, "Analyticity Reconsidered"

Wednesday, September 29th

- Quine, "On What There Is"
- Jackson, "Statements About Universals"
- van Inwagen, "Meta-ontology"
- *First paper due*

Wednesday, October 6th

- Kripke, Lecture I of *Naming and Necessity*
- Stalnaker, "Reference and Necessity"

Wednesday, October 13th

- Kripke, Lecture II of *Naming and Necessity*
- Jackson, "Reference and Description Revisited"

Wednesday, October 20th

- Kripke, Lecture III of *Naming and Necessity*
- Johnston, "Manifest Kinds"
- *Second paper due*

Wednesday, October 27th

- Putnam, "The Nature of Mental States"
- Block, "Troubles with Functionalism"

Wednesday, November 3rd

- Lewis, "Mad Pain and Martian Pain"
- Lewis, "Psychophysical and Theoretical Identifications"

Wednesday, November 10th

- Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person"
- Wolf, "Asymmetrical Freedom"
- *Third paper due*

Wednesday, November 17th

- Harman, "Ethics and Observation"

- Sturgeon, “Moral Explanations”

Wednesday, November 24th

- No class due to Thanksgiving holiday. Make-up class scheduled for Monday, December 13th

Wednesday, December 1st

- Gettier, “Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?”
- Nozick, selections from Chapter 3 of *Philosophical Explanations*, “Knowledge and Skepticism”
- *Fourth paper due*

Wednesday, December 8th

- Goodman, Chapter 3 of *Fact, Fiction, and Forecast*, “The New Riddle of Induction”
- Jackson, “Grue”

Monday, December 13th

- Moore, “Proof of an External World”
- Wright, “(Anti-)Sceptics Simple and Subtle: Moore and McDowell”
- Pryor, “What’s Wrong With Moore’s Argument?”
- *Fifth paper due Wednesday, December 15th*