FALL 2019   PHI 536   J BURGESS   PHILOSOPHY OF MATHEMATICS: MATHEMATICAL ONTOLOGY

Each of the 12 weekly sessions will be divided into 2 half-sessions.

There is one required reading for each half-session.

There are several recommended, not required, readings for each session, but it is not anticipated that any student will read all, or even most, of them: they differ in degree of closeness of connection to the required readings they accompany, and in the amount of technical or other background they presuppose on the part of the reader.

There are also papers of my own on the list, and these are, even more so than the recommended readings, completely optional: I will merely mention them in discussion where I think parts of one may be relevant enough that a student really interested in the half-session where they come up may want to have a look at them.

The works in question are listed separately on the syllabus.
N.B. Quine1948 (first item on the syllabus) is available at «princeton.edu/~jburgess/Quine1948.pdf» and similarly for the others

Ideally, each half-session would consist of

- an exposition, preferably by a student presenter, of the argument of the main paper, with as much sympathy as the presenter can muster
- comments by the presenter identifying some topics that could use further discussion
- discussion of such topics and any others that come up as we proceed
- a brief account by me of what's in the optional papers, mine and others', if there has not already been such comment in the discussion

Pre-generals graduate students may fulfill two sorts of requirements through the course

- half the requirement to give presentations in two seminars by serving as presenter for two half-sessions, consecutive or not
- a unit requirement in epistemology by in addition writing two short papers (each about a quarter the length of an ordinary unit paper)
  identifying the main issues that came up in discussion, and the main points made;
  the two short papers may be combined into a longer one (about half the length of an ordinary unit paper)
  if the topics of the two half-sessions were so related as to make this useful or desirable