

Graduate Philosophy Proseminar
Notre Dame Fall 2013
Tuesdays 6:30-9:00pm
Malloy 220

INSTRUCTOR: Meghan Sullivan
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:15-4:15pm (after my Intro lecture). I am happy to set up any meeting by appointment. It also helps if you send me a quick note before you come in (even if it is just a few hours before).
CONTACT: Sullivan.meghan@gmail.com (preferred)

COURSE GOALS:

There are three goals for this proseminar:

- (1) To learn to write clear, interesting, and accurate research papers that approach the standard of professional publications in philosophy.
- (2) To learn to give clear, interesting, and accurate presentations approximating the talks you'll give at conferences and as teachers.
- (3) To develop a fluency with some of the most important arguments and theories in 20th century analytic philosophy.

We will focus our attention on some "greatest hits" in 20th century analytic metaphysics, epistemology and philosophy of language. We'll typically read the works in historical order, identifying trends as they develop. As you'll see, we have quite a few readings. You should plan to do them all. We'll talk about the most interesting parts in our seminar.

REQUIREMENTS:

The requirements for this course closely mirror the goals:

(1) Research Writing Skills

You have two research writing projects this semester:

Research Paper: You will be expected to write a 7500 word research paper on some topic related to our readings and discussions. The paper should be the same format and quality as a peer-reviewed journal article. This will be done in stages. You should choose your topic by October. A proposal (2-3 pages) is due on 10/22. A complete, somewhat polished draft is due 11/5 (roughly ten weeks into the seminar). The final draft must be submitted on 12/10. (100 CPs)

Referee Report. You will write a useful, professional-quality referee report on one of your classmate's paper drafts. It will engage with relevant literature and

accurately assess the quality of the paper. This report is due the day they present their work their work at the mini-conference. (15 CPs)

Benchmarks: A (95+ CPs), B (85-94 CPs), C(75-84 CPs)

(2) Presentation Skills

We'll have three different kinds of projects for developing presentation skills.

Paper Presentation: The final four weeks of class we will have a mini-conference. You will be assigned a day to deliver a 20 minute talk based on your main research paper. You will strictly obey time limits, prepare a handout, and deliver an engaging, professional-quality philosophy talk. You will have a commentator, who will speak for 5 minutes raising questions, objections, and extensions to your paper. Then you will field questions for 10 minutes from audience members. All papers will be pre-read by your classmates. (70 CPs)

Commentary: You will prepare a 5-minute, conference-style commentary on a classmate's research paper. You will prepare an engaging question, objection or extension for their paper. There will be strict time limits for the commentators, since we want enough time for a good Q&A. (15 CPs)

Discussion Point Person: You will serve as "point-person" for three discussion topics during the course of the semester, preparing brief and helpful explanations for difficult arguments and sharing them in class. (Up to 3 CPs per time).

Benchmarks: A(80+CPs) B(70-79 CPs) C(60-69 CPs)

(3) Philosophical Fluency and Knowledge of Topics

There are two ways to show you are mastering the substantive topics covered in readings and in class.

Short Explanation Papers: A short explanation paper is between 750-1500 words. It should clearly present and explain one interesting argument from the readings and offer some original comment or insight on the argument. They are graded on 1-10 CP scale. I will give you very brief comments on writing and philosophical accuracy. You must write the first discussion paper. After that, you can write as many of these as you like, and I will only count grades for the top three. At first the papers will be a week delayed (so you can have the benefit of our class discussion). Then the papers will be due the day of that discussion). (30 CPs total)

In-Class Discussion: You are expected to come prepared with marked readings and questions for each and every class. You are expected to make a contribution in seminar to our collective understanding every week. After each class, I will briefly make a note of any individuals who made a particularly important contribution to our collective understanding in discussion that day. You can earn an extra CP per class by raising or clarifying a point, formulating an argument or giving an objection that genuinely helps the rest of us. (And if you think a classmate has done this and I

may have overlooked how, please bring it to my attention). There is no cap on these points, but they will not be easy to earn.

Benchmarks: A (27+ CPs), B(22-26CPs), C(18-22CPs)

FINAL GRADE CALCULATIONS: When I report back to the DGS, I will break your Proseminar grade into three scores (Research Writing Skills, Presentation Skills, and Knowledge of 20th Century MLE Topics). To come up with your final grade, I will use the following system.

A in all three categories: A for the course.

A in at least two categories and a B in third: A- for the course.

A in at least one category and Bs in other two: B+ for the course.

B is all three categories: B for the course.

B in two categories and C in other: B- for the course.

B in one category and Cs in other two: C+ for the course.

And so on.

Remember, at this point in your career, grades are primarily for your benefit. They let you know how much progress you are making at developing key professional skills and finding research projects. Moreover the skills you have at the end of the course are much more important than any particular grade en-route.

CLASS ETIQUETTE, PROFESSIONALISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

I expect you to behave ethically and professionally. For this course, this means being prepared for every seminar, bringing all relevant materials, asking questions, and responding effectively to other students' questions. Everyone is expected to treat others' ideas critically but respectfully. You should not interrupt other students, and you are responsible for making this a welcoming and philosophically productive for every member of our group.

Further, I take academic integrity and the Notre Dame Honor policy very seriously. Though I encourage you to share work and give each other feedback, the papers must represent your own, original work. Cheating, plagiarism or serious violations of the policy in this course will be reported to the DGS and will be subject to an Honor Code Violation report. This could result in your expulsion from Notre Dame. If you have any questions about this policy or acceptable collaboration with other students, please contact me.

TEXTBOOKS:

Most of the articles will be distributed on Sakai. You should also purchase the following books:

Language, Truth, and Logic (Ayer)

Naming and Necessity (Kripke)

Fact, Fiction and Forecast (Goodman)

From a Logical Point of View (Quine)

If you want to further enhance your library for this course, you might buy any/all of the following books:

Philosophical Analysis in the 20th Century (Soames) Vols 1 and 2

Studies in the Ways of Words (Grice)

Problems of Philosophy (Russell)

Collected Papers (David Lewis) OUP Volumes

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Below is a tentative schedule for the seminar. Readings will be posted on Sakai, and they should be done before each assigned seminar. The order and lineup may change somewhat depending on our interests.

Classes will typically have the following format. I will give a 20 or so minute introduction to key topics relevant to the readings. Then we will have a 70-80 minute discussion of the readings, including reports from the appointed “point-people” of the day. You’ll be responsible for bringing questions and ideas to every discussion. A little after 8pm we will take a brief break. Then the remaining 45 minutes of the course we will discuss professional development skills, often with a guest visitor. Sometimes the skills will be directly relevant to assignments for the course (conducting research for your paper, preparing your talk, etc). Other times they will be focused on succeeding in the PhD and in the profession.

SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	REQUIRED READING	OPTIONAL READING	PROF DEVELOPMENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE
8/27	Semantic Values and Frege’s Theory of Reference	On Sense and Reference (Frege) The Thought (Frege)		Getting to Know One Another and Succeeding in the PhD (Session 1)	
9/3	Quantifiers and Russell’s Theory of Names	On Denoting (Russell), On Referring (Strawson)	PATC Chap 5	How to Be an Excellent Colleague and Ally (Session 2) (with Paddy Blanchette)	REQUIRED SHORT PAPER 1 ON FREGE DUE
9/10	Russell vs Moore on	Knowledge by Acquaintance,	The Problems of Philosophy	Getting the Most From Seminar-	OPTIONAL SHORT PAPER-

	Epistemology	Knowledge by Description (Russell), Proof of an External World (Moore), Defense of Common Sense (Moore)	(Russell), PATC Chaps 1-2 (Soames)	Style Discussions and Colloquia (Session 3) (with Blake Roeber)	DENOTING
9/17	No Class				OPTIONAL SHORT PAPER--EPISTEMOLOGY
9/24	Metaethics in the Early 20th Century	LTL Chap 1-2, 6 (Ayer), Principia Ethica Chap 1 (Moore)	Toward a Fin De Siecle Ethics: Some Trends (Darwall, Gibbard, Railton), PATC Chaps 3-4 (Soames)	Writing for a Professional Philosophy Audience (Session 4) (with Jeff Speaks)	OPTIONAL SHORT PAPER--RE-WRITE OF EARLIER PAPER OR ANY TOPIC FROM FREGE, RUSSELL, MOORE
10/1	Quine vs Carnap on Ontology	Two Dogmas of Empiricism (Quine), On What There Is (Quine), Semantics, Empiricism, and Ontology (Carnap)	Meta-Ontology (van Inwagen)	How Philosophy Gets Published (Session 5)	OPTIONAL SHORT PAPER--METAETHICS
10/8	Modal Logic and Modal Metaphysics in the Mid-20th Century	Nature of Necessity Chaps 1-5 (Plantinga), Reductive Theories of Modality (Sider)	Logic for Philosophy Chap 6 (Sider), Reference and Modality (Quine) Barcan Formula Papers 1946/47, Two Axes of Actualism (Bennett)	How to Give a Great Conference Talk (Session 6) (with Anjan Chakravartty)	OPTIONAL SHORT PAPER--ONTOLOGY
10/15 MOVE DATE	Kripkean Semantics and Metaphysics	NN Lectures 1 and 2	The Causal Theory of Names (Evans), PATC Chap 14-15 (Soames)	How to Write a Useful Referee Report (Session 7)	OPTIONAL SHORT PAPER--KRIPKEAN REFERENCE
10/22	Fall Break				PAPER PROPOSAL DUE
10/29	Naturalness in Semantics and Metaphysics	FFF Chap 3 (Goodman), NN Lecture 3 (Kripke), New Work for a Theory of Universals (Lewis)	Witt on Rules and Private Language (Kripke) Meaning of Meaning (Putnam) Writing the Book of the World Chap 1 (Sider)	How to Give Great Conference Comments (Session 8) (with Sam Newlands)	OPTIONAL SHORT PAPER--NATURALNESS
11/5	Semantics vs Pragmatics in	Logic and Conversation	PATC Chap 9 (Soames)	Finding Mentors and Setting	RESEARCH PAPER DRAFT

	the mid-20th Century	(Grice), "Assertion" (Stalnaker)		Professional Goals (Session 9) (with Don Howard)	DUE TO COMMENTATOR, REFEREE, AND SULLIVAN
11/12	MINI-CONF SESSION 1	Group 1 Papers			REFEREE REPORTS DUE FOR GROUP 1
11/19	MINI-CONF SESSION 2	Group 2 Papers			REFEREE REPORTS DUE FOR GROUP 2
11/26	MINI-CONF SESSION 3	Group 3 Papers			REFEREE REPORTS DUE FOR GROUP 3
12/3	MINI-CONF SESSION 4	Group 4 Papers			REFEREE REPORTS DUE FOR GROUP 4
12/10		FINAL PAPERS DUE		Class Party	