

Graduate courses and seminars for 2013-14

Fall Quarter

PHIL 275, Andrews Reath – First Year Proseminar in Value Theory [Tuesday, 2-5 PM]

The seminar will survey some central issues in contemporary moral theory. We will begin with various questions about the nature of reasons for action: what do we mean by a reason for action? what is the connection between reasons and desires or motives? The balance of the seminar will survey (all too briefly, I am afraid) some of the main currents in contemporary normative theory – deontological intuitionism, consequentialism, contractualism, contemporary Kantianism, and virtue theory.

PHIL 282, Pierre Keller – Kant’s Cosmopolitan Conception of Philosophy [Friday 11AM – 2PM]

My aim in the seminar is especially to interpret the Transcendental Doctrine of Method in the First *Critique* and to show its systematic significance in Kant, but also to show the way it frames Kant's philosophy in relation to pre-Kantian and post-Kantian philosophy as a whole. I will endeavor to explain why the Doctrine of Method, the second half of the *Critique* is at least as important as the other larger half of the *Critique*. I will begin the course with a discussion of the Prefaces and Introduction to the work as a whole and an account of Kant's Baconian-Copernican conception of the scientific revolution and how it applies to metaphysics and the idea of a system of the sciences, of philosophy and metaphysics. Then I propose to devote sessions to the Transcendental Aesthetic and Analytic and to the Transcendental Dialectic. I aim to show how Kant's argument in those sections fits into the conception of method that he develops in the Doctrine of Method.

I will argue that the Doctrine of Method supports a conception of philosophy quite different from the one usually attributed to Kant; the academic or scholastic conception of philosophy almost universally identified with Kant is not on Kant's view what philosophy truly is. I will endeavor to show that Kant eschews the mathematical and propositional model of understanding, and does not take mental representations as basic givens. He also thinks of philosophical practices as intrinsically social and historical and their norms to be socially and historically instituted. Kant rejects a conception of a purely speculative or theoretical metaphysics in favor of one grounded in the general interests that we have as human agents and the way those interests guide us in our own particular historical and spatio-temporal context, given our own more particular interests.

PHIL 282, Erich Reck – Frege [Thursday 2-5 PM]

Based on his introduction of modern quantificational logic and the pursuit of his life-long logicist project, Frege is often seen as one of the founders of analytic philosophy. However, there is a debate in the recent literature on how exactly to understand his methodology and basic goal. By many, he is seen as aiming for a strong, reductive, or realist kind of “analysis”; but there are others for whom his method is closer to Carnapian “explication” instead, thus to involve significant conventionalist or pragmatist elements. In this seminar, we will go through Frege’s main writings, together with some secondary literature, both to clarify the issue philosophically and to decide where Frege stands, including whether his relevant views change over time.

PHIL 283, Larry Wright, Argument and Explanation [Monday 1-4 PM]

After looking at a bit of relevant literature, most of the seminar will be spent working through my developing manuscript on the concept of a reason, in which I explore the connection between what we offer as a reason in reasoning and what offer under the same head in explaining – or alternatively, the relation between the "because" of argument and that of explanation.

PHIL 272, Peter Graham and Eric Schwitzgebel, Workshop in Epistemology and Philosophy of Psychology. [Friday 3-5 PM]

We run an annual workshop, inviting speakers to present their research on topics related to Epistemology and the Philosophy of Psychology. Most speakers will present during the assigned time, but not always. Students who are interested in the workshop may enroll for credit in 272. When there are no speakers, Peter will lead a discussion on some papers by Tyler Burge on reflection, a priori knowledge, testimonial knowledge, and perception, during the assigned times on Fridays.

Winter Quarter

PHIL 275-A, Eric Schwitzgebel - First Year Proseminar in Epistemology and Metaphysics [Friday 11AM – 2PM]

We will examine radically skeptical arguments from the ancients (Sextus, Zhuangzi), the early moderns (Montaigne, Descartes, Hume), and into the present (simulation skepticism, Boltzmann brains), along with various attempts to refute those arguments (e.g., Descartes, Berkeley, Moore, Russell, Vogel, Chalmers).

PHIL 282, Mark Wrathall - Kierkegaard [Wednesday 12-3 PM]

This seminar will work through a number of Kierkegaard's writings (both pseudonymous, as well as those published under his own name, and perhaps his journals). I am particularly interested to explore Kierkegaard's views on subjectivity, modernity, irony, love, happiness, and the temporality of human existence.

Phil 283, John Perry - Personal Identity and the Self [Monday 1-4 PM]

We will discuss issues of self-knowledge and personal identity, looking at historical and contemporary sources (Locke, Hume, Kant; Shoemaker, Nagel, Parfit, etc.). I will argue in favor of the view of self-knowledge I have advanced in various places (E.g., "The Sense of Identity," (link below), and explore what relevance it has for accounts of personal identity).

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/10098313/2002dSenseIdentity.pdf>

Phil 283, John Fischer – Death and Immortality [Thursday 2-5 PM]

We will focus on the metaphysical and normative issues pertaining to immortality: how to define immortality, would it be necessarily boring and unattractive, would it necessarily lack the structure of a recognizably human life? We will explore other questions relevant to death and immortality, perhaps using readings from the recent Oxford Handbook on the Philosophy of Death.

Spring Quarter

PHIL 125: Intermediate Logic – Erick Reck

This is the logic course required for the PhD. Students will need to have taken Phil 124 or the equivalent to enroll in this course.

PHIL 275-A, John Perry - First Year Proseminar in Epistemology and Metaphysics
TBA - Either issues in the philosophy of language or on modality (depending in part on the interests of graduate students).

PHIL 281, Jozef Müller – Aristotle’s *De Anima*

Phil 282, Maudemarie Clark – Nietzsche on morality

Phil 283, Agnieszka Jaworska –Love, Caring, and Human Agency
What is it to love or care about something? How is caring related to desiring? To the emotions? To having policies? To temporally extended agency? What is the relation between caring and the will? Do we have reasons for caring about things? Do we have reason to pursue what we care about? Are the capacities to love and care essential to human agency? Readings from contemporary literature, including some or all of the following: Frankfurt, Watson, Bratman, Scanlon, Raz, Williams, Helm, Seidman, Kolodny, and perhaps some articles from the neuroscience of the emotions.

PHIL 283, Coleen Macnamara – Deontic pluralism