

WINTER 2018 GRADUATE SEMINARS

Phil275B, Eric Schwitzgebel – Proseminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology

Phil 281, Luca Ferrero- The Practical (and the Theoretical)

In this seminar, we will explore the similarities and dissimilarities between the practical and the theoretical domains, with special emphasis on the question of what the analogies and disanalogies might show us about the nature of practical attitudes, the structure of practical reasoning, and the contents and grounds of norms of practical rationality. Particular attention will be devoted to the question whether any dimension or element of the practical domain might be ultimately reducible to any dimension or element of the theoretical domain (be it specific attitudes, forms of reasoning, or norms of rationality). The seminar begins with the discussion of how we individuate different kinds of attitudes (for instance, in terms of direction of fit or constitutive aims). We then discuss the allegedly distinctive features of practical reasoning and the nature of its conclusion (and possibly the similarities between conative and doxastic akrasia or incontinence). Finally, if time allows, we will consider the possible parallelisms between synchronic and diachronic norms of practical and theoretical rationality. Readings from contemporary analytic philosophy.

The seminar will be linked with Luca Ferrero's seminar in the winter. While one can take either seminar individually as just a regular seminar, there is also the option of taking both seminars in such a way that one can write, over the period of both terms, a single, more extensive and substantive paper that will serve as the basis of the grade for both seminars. In that case, students will receive a grade of IP (in progress) at the end of the fall term and then will receive the same grade for both seminars at the time of completion of the paper. To take advantage of this option, however, it will be necessary to enroll in a 272a/b for the seminars; talk to Gerardo for help with that. At the end of the fall term, students will be requested to submit either a draft or at least an outline of a paper. The motivation is two fold. First, it is designed as a way of trying to ease the demands of the quarter system for graduate studies. Second, and not entirely unrelated, it is designed to allow students interested in developing a more extensive paper, which requires more than the 10 weeks of a quarter system term to develop, an opportunity to work on and submit a more significant, well developed and well researched term paper for a seminar. This will help ease the transition to post-course work requirements, where more substantive work than a typical seminar paper is demanded.

Phil 282-1, Maudemarie Clark –

This seminar will be devoted to a reading of Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*. I am particularly interested in testing out the Clark-Dudrick hypothesis that the ethical and political ideas advanced in its other eight parts (with the possible exception of part 4) are designed to fill out and follow from the theories as to the nature of philosophy and the structure of the human soul suggested by part 1.

Phil 282-2, Andrews Reath – Kant’s *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

This seminar will be a close reading of Kant’s *Groundwork*. The focus will be on the foundational theory presented by the *Groundwork*, through attention to the overall structure of the argument of this work. I will give a follow up workshop in the spring quarter on topics on Kant’s moral theory. Students may take only the Winter Quarter seminar, and students with background in Kant’s moral theory may take only the Spring Quarter workshop, but my hope is that some students will take both. Those who do will have the opportunity to spend the spring working on a substantive paper that will serve as the basis of the grade for both seminars (administrative details to be worked out – I may ask for a short writing assignment in the winter to be the basis of an interim grade).