

PHILOSOPHY 597: PROSEMINAR
Fall 2018
Thursdays 4–6:20, in 1164 Angell Hall

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Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30–3:30, and by appointment.

The areas of contemporary analytic philosophy can sometimes seem like a far flung scattering of isolated islands. But these islands can also look like a dense archipelago, affording great—if not always obvious—opportunities for communication, cooperation, and collaboration. This course takes one possible voyage through the archipelago. Each week's readings are closely related to the neighboring weeks', and yet we'll manage to discuss questions about idealization, explanation, belief, ideology, laws of nature, causation, modality, vagueness, indeterminacy, values, virtue, philosophical methodology, knowledge, meaning, sociality, and inquiry. Our primary goals will be (1) to get better at drawing fruitful connections between philosophical literatures that might look distant from each other, and (2) to improve presentation skills, broadly construed.

Each meeting will have one student presentation on each reading or excerpt. By September 8, please email me your preferences over the five readings in 1a–3a, below, the five in 3b–5a, in 5b–7b, in 8a–10a, and in 10b–12b. This will help me distribute presentation topics equitably. Please write up a two page handout for your presentations. In each presentation, aim to advance the conversation in *two* interesting ways—by asking a productive question, making a positive extension or amendment, or raising an interesting objection. Don't summarize the reading: just refresh our memory about relevant points. Please feel free to discuss the readings with me and with each other before your presentations! But I think you'll learn more by focusing your attention and energy on the assigned reading than by consulting secondary sources.

The final paper should be a development of one of your presentations, and about 11–14 pages long. Your distribution unit for the course will be a function of your final paper's topic. The paper is due on December 18. Please discuss your plans for your paper with me by November 16. Also, I encourage you to submit a draft to me by December 3.

You should borrow or buy your own copy of Kwame Anthony Appiah's *As If: Idealization and Ideals*. I'll provide access to other readings through Canvas.

9/6	Organizational meeting, advice
9/13	1a. Georg Henrik von Wright, "Two Traditions" from <i>Explanation and Understanding</i> (Emma) 1b. Kwame Anthony Appiah, "Useful Untruths" from <i>As If: Idealization and Ideals</i> (Gillian)
9/20	2a. F. P. Ramsey, "Truth and Probability" (Calum) 2b. Kwame Anthony Appiah, "A Measure of Belief" from <i>As If: Idealization and Ideals</i> (Sherrice)
9/27	3a. F. P. Ramsey, "Law and Causality" (Glenn) 3b. Dorothy Edgington, "On Conditionals," pp. 235–271 (Gillian) 3c. Dorothy Edgington, "On Conditionals," pp. 271–311 (Calum)
10/4	4a. Delia Graff Fara, "Shifting Sands: An Interest-Relative Theory of Vagueness" (Glenn) 4b. Elizabeth Barnes, "Fundamental Indeterminacy" (Emma)
10/11	5a. Rosalind Hursthouse, "Right Action" from <i>On Virtue Ethics</i> (Sherice) 5b. Rosalind Hursthouse, "Resolvable Dilemmas" from <i>On Virtue Ethics</i> (Glenn)
10/18	6a. Martha Nussbaum, "The Discernment of Perception: An Aristotelian Conception of Private and Public Rationality" (Sherice) 6b. Onora O'Neill, "The Power of Example" (Gillian)
10/25	7a. Linda Zagzebski, "The Inescapability of Gettier Problems" (Emma) 7b. Brian Weatherson, "What Good are Counterexamples?" (Calum)
11/1	8a. W. V. O. Quine, "Epistemology Naturalized" (Emma) 8b. Margaret Urban Walker, "Naturalizing, Normativity, and Using What 'We' Know in Ethics" (Gillian)
11/8	9a. Hilary Putnam, "The Meaning of 'Meaning,'" pp. 131–160 (Sherice) 9b. Hilary Putnam, "The Meaning of 'Meaning,'" pp. 160–193 (Calum)
11/15	10a. David Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals" (Glenn) 10b. Ruth Millikan, "Truth Rules, Hoverflies, and the Kripke-Wittgenstein Paradox" (Calum)
11/16	Deadline to discuss plans for your paper with me
11/22	Thanksgiving break
11/29*	11a. Helen Longino, "Values and Objectivity," from <i>Science as Social Knowledge</i> (Sherice) 11b. Elizabeth Anderson, "Democratic Ideals and Segregation," from <i>The Imperative of Integration</i> (Emma)
12/3	Deadline for drafts (optional)
12/6	12a. Charles Mills, "Ideal Theory as Ideology" (Glenn) 12b. Kwame Anthony Appiah, "Political Ideals" from <i>As If: Idealization and Ideals</i> (Gillian)
12/18	Final paper due over email

* indicates that we'll have to reschedule this meeting because I'll be away at a conference.