

In this course we'll discuss a wide range of important themes in contemporary analytic philosophy. Studying these themes in isolation can make them look like a far flung scattering of isolated islands. My hope is that through surveying them together we can come to appreciate that they are more like a dense archipelago, affording great—if not always obvious—opportunities for communication, cooperation, and collaboration.

MEETINGS

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1–2:20, in **2401 Mason Hall**. With your consent, I plan to record our seminars, in case one of us gets sick. In such cases, please feel free to watch on **Lecture Capture**.

Most substantive meetings have an (a) part and a (b) part, with one student presenting in each part. A few meetings (Williamson, Appiah) don't have parts; just one student will present on those days. Each presentation should raise one question about the reading or readings in that part, and provide just enough background so that someone who didn't quite understand the relevant parts of the reading could follow the question and (much of) the subsequent conversation. Feel free to use a handout but keep it to a maximum of *one* page. Do not use slides.

To help me distribute presentation topics equitably, I'd like to know your preferences for topics. So, by August 26, please use a private Piazza post to send me your preferences over 1a–4b. By September 5, please use a private Piazza post to send me your preferences over 5a–8b, 9a–12b, 13a–16b, 17a–22, and 23a–27. You should convey your preferences for each group with a preorder. That is, if you prefer 1a to 1b, which for you is tied with 2a, and you prefer all of those to 2b, one part of your preferences for the first group could be specified like this: '1a > 1b ~ 2a > 2b'.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Piazza (on the **Canvas site**—<https://umich.instructure.com/courses/780412>) is the online place to ask course-related questions and to start course-related chats. If you have a question that isn't specific to you, please use a public post! Use a private post to me on Piazza for questions specific to you.

My office hours are 11:45–12:45 on Mondays and Wednesdays, in **2259 Angell Hall**. You don't need to make an appointment to drop by at these times. I'm also happy to chat after class (time permitting), and by appointment.

READINGS

Alex Broadbent, *Philosophy for Graduate Students: Metaphysics and Epistemology* (available to us online)

Timothy Williamson, *Philosophical Method: A Very Short Introduction*

Anthony Appiah, *As If: Idealization and Ideals*

Many readings (and supplementary readings, as things come up) will be available in the Files section on **Canvas** (<https://umich.instructure.com/courses/780412>).

Please feel free to discuss the readings with me and with each other. However, focus on the assigned readings.

GRADING

30%: *Active* participation in seminar.

30%: Your six presentations, described above.

40%: one roughly 10–14 page paper, developing one of your questions in more depth, and considering at least two potential responses on behalf of your interlocutor, due by December 16. (This is the default arrangement, but if some other arrangement would work better for you, please talk to me about what you'd like to do in advance.) I'm very happy to brainstorm, discuss, read drafts, etc.!

Your **distribution unit** for the course will be a function of your final paper's topic. If you'd like this course to satisfy a particular distribution unit, bear that in mind when you think about your preferences for presentation topics.

Aug. 25	Organizational meeting
Aug. 27	1a. Broadbent, chapter 1: Induction 1b. Nelson Goodman, "The Way the World Is"
Sep. 3	2a. Philippa Foot, "Moral Beliefs" 2b. Ruth Anna Putnam, "Creating Facts and Values"
Sep. 8	3a. Broadbent, chapter 2: Similarity 3b. Katherine Hawley and Alexander Bird, "What Are Natural Kinds?"
Sep. 10	4a. Penelope Maddy, "Indispensability and Practice" 4b. Kathrin Koslicki, "Questions of Ontology"
Sep. 15	5a. Broadbent, chapter 3: Causation 5b. Dorothy Edgington, "On Conditionals," sections 1–4
Sep. 17	6a. Dorothy Edgington, "On Conditionals," sections 5–7 6b. Dorothy Edgington, "On Conditionals," sections 8–10
Sep. 22	7a. Broadbent, chapter 4: Laws of Nature 7b. Nancy Cartwright, "The Truth Doesn't Explain Much"
Sep. 24	8a. Sandra Mitchell, "Pragmatic Laws" 8b. Angela Potochnik, "The Diverse Aims of Science"
Sep. 29	9a. Broadbent, chapter 5: Meaning and Experience 9b. Gillian Russell, "The Analytic/Synthetic Distinction"
Oct. 1	10a. Broadbent, chapter 6: Reference 10b. Betty Birner, "Defining Pragmatics" (chapter 1 of <i>Introduction to Pragmatics</i>)
Oct. 6	11a. Elizabeth Anscombe, "On Brute Facts" 11b. Saul Kripke, "Speaker's Reference and Semantic Reference"
Oct. 8	12a. Betty Birner, "Gricean Implicature" (chapter 2 of <i>Introduction to Pragmatics</i>) 12b. Betty Birner, "Presupposition" (chapter 5 of <i>Introduction to Pragmatics</i>)
Oct. 15	13a. Broadbent, chapter 7: Truth 13b. Jennifer Hornsby, "Truth: The Identity Theory"
Oct. 20	14a. Broadbent, chapter 8: Mind 14b. Jessica Wilson, "Between Scientism and Abstractionism in the Metaphysics of Emergence"
Oct. 22	15a. Broadbent, chapter 9: Knowledge 15b. Uriah Kriegel, "Beatrice Edgell's myth of the given"
Oct. 27	16a. Susanna Siegel, "Cognitive Penetrability and Perceptual Justification" 16b. Jennifer Nagel, "Common Knowledge and its Limits"
Oct. 29	17a. Broadbent, chapter 10: Philosophical Methods 17b. Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"
Nov. 3	18. Timothy Williamson, <i>Philosophical Method</i> , chapters 1–5
Nov. 5	19. Timothy Williamson, <i>Philosophical Method</i> , chapters 6–11
Nov. 10	20. Anthony Appiah, <i>As If</i> , chapter 1: "Useful Untruths"
Nov. 12	21a. Catherine Elgin, "Understanding and the Facts" 21b. Stephen Yablo, "Go Figure: A Path through Fictionalism"
Nov. 17	22. Anthony Appiah, <i>As If</i> , chapter 2: "A Measure of Belief"
Nov. 19	23a. Frank P. Ramsey, "Truth and Probability" 23b. Cheryl Misak, "A New History and Underpinning for Conceptual Engineering"
Nov. 24	24a. Mark Johnston and Sarah-Jane Leslie, "Concepts, Analysis, Generics, and the Canberra Plan," pp. 113–138 24b. Ibid., pp. 138–164
Dec. 1	25. Anthony Appiah, <i>As If</i> , chapter 3: "Political Ideals"
Dec. 3	26a. Charles Mills, "'Ideal Theory' as Ideology" 26b. Tommie Shelby, "Racial Realities and Corrective Justice: A Reply to Charles Mills"
Dec. 8	27. Christian List and Laura Valentini, "What Normative Facts Should Political Theory Be About?"