

Protoseminar (PHIL 700) syllabus

Class Meetings: Wednesdays, 10am-12:30pm, Caldwell 208

Susan's Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30pm, Caldwell 109B

Alex's Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30pm and Thursdays, 2:30-3:30pm, Caldwell 202A

We will study and discuss a wide range of papers, drawn from many areas of philosophy and written in a variety of philosophical styles. The aim of the course is to help you to develop your professional skills such as the ability to read carefully, to reconstruct arguments, to present material in oral and written form, and to contribute productively to discussions.

Each week, one or two students are assigned to introduce the text assigned and lead the class discussion. You will find a schedule of presenters and readings below. When there are two presenters in a single week, it is the responsibility of the two presenters to divide the material to be presented appropriately. Each student will be presenting three times. All the readings will be available electronically on Sakai.

Every week in which you are not assigned to lead the class discussion, you are to write a short paper. The paper should be no more than two pages (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins) and can discuss any aspect of the reading. Papers are due at the start of each class. Please turn in your paper by sending it as an email attachment to both of us – susanw@unc.edu and aworsnip@unc.edu. For the first six weeks, the papers should include only your PID numbers as identification, so that we can read your papers anonymously. For the second half of the semester, we will ask you to put your names on your papers, so we can more easily spot patterns in your writing that we might want to address.

Every week, please come to class ready to discuss the assigned papers.

If you complete all of the assigned work on time, then you will receive a P+ for the course. There is no final exam or final term paper. There are individual meetings in the middle and end of the course to review progress.

Schedule of Meetings

Jan. 10 Cicero, *Tusculan Disputations*, Book 3
Presenter: Nevin

Jan. 17 (Class cancelled – Snow day!)

Jan. 24 Marilyn Frye, “Sexism”
Presenter: DeeAnn

Jan. 31 Thomas Kelly, “Moorean Facts and Belief Revision, or Can The Skeptic Win?”
Presenter: Miriam

- Feb. 7** Ishani Maitra, “Subordinating Speech”
Presenter: Simon
- Feb. 14** J. L. Austin, “Ifs and Cans”
Presenter: Michael
- Feb. 21** G. A. Cohen, “Freedom and Money”
Presenter: Miriam
Mid-term individual meetings also to be held this week
- Feb. 28** Amie Thomasson, “Fictionalism Versus Deflationism”
Presenters: Nevin, DeeAnn
- Mar. 7** Angela Smith, “Guilty Thoughts”
Presenter: Simon
- Mar. 14 (No meeting – Spring break)
- Mar. 21** Bas van Fraassen, *The Scientific Image*, ch. 2
Presenter: Michael
- Mar. 28** Marya Schechtman, “Personhood and Personal Identity”
Presenter: Nevin
- Apr. 4** David Hume, “Of the Standard of Taste”
Presenter: DeeAnn
- Apr. 11** Kendall Walton, “Fearing Fictions”
Presenters: Miriam, Simon
- Apr. 18** Judith Jarvis Thomson, “Liability and Individualized Evidence”
Presenter: Michael
- Apr. 25** *End-of-term individual meetings*