

Graduate Course Descriptions Spring Semester 2014

Philosophy of Mind

PHIL 4421/6421

Shaun Gallagher

M/W 12:40-2:05

<Theoretical/Analytic>

The course will cover major debates in recent philosophy of mind after reviewing some classical concepts and positions. Topics include behaviorism; reductive, non-reductive, and eliminative versions of materialism; functionalism; phenomenal consciousness; computational models; mental causation; action, free will, personal identity, and more recent embodied, enactive and extended models of the mind.

Studies in Ancient Philosophy: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

PHIL 4211/6211

Tim Roche

M 2:30-5:30

<History/Major Figure>

The course involves an intensive study of the ten books of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (*NE*). The purpose of the course is twofold. First, we will investigate and consider possible interpretations of the arguments and doctrines expressed in each of the books of the *Ethics*. These doctrines include Aristotle's theories of the human good, moral virtue, voluntary action, choice, deliberation, moral responsibility, justice, practical wisdom, theoretical wisdom, weakness of will, pleasure, friendship, the end of politics, the value of philosophy, and the nature of the human being. The aim is to establish what these doctrines are, how Aristotle attempts to defend them, and whether the arguments he uses in their defense are successful. Second, we will examine recent scholarly literature bearing some of Aristotle's discussions in the *NE* (e.g., papers on Aristotle's account of the human good, pleasure, moral virtue, weakness of will, friendship, etc.).

Texts:

Required

1. Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics: Translation, Introduction, and Commentary*. Sarah Broadie and Christopher Rowe (eds.) (Oxford). ISBN: 0198752717 or 9780198752714.
2. Photocopied papers consisting of modern philosophical discussions of various aspects of Aristotle's moral philosophy. The papers will be kept in folders in the department

office, or some other accessible place. Students will be required to copy and read some of these papers and address the positions taken in them in their own papers or class presentations.

3. Various books on Aristotle's moral philosophy. These will be kept in the Reserve Room of the Main Library. (These books are *not* required reading for the course, but students may find them to be useful for clarifying either Aristotle's *Ethics* or the positions defended in the papers mentioned in 2.)

Recommended

1. For students who read Attic Greek, the standard Greek text of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics: Aristotelis Ethica Nicomachea*. I. Bywater (ed.) (Oxford). ISBN: 9780198145110.
2. *Aristotle. Nicomachean Ethics*. Terence Irwin (trans.) (Hackett). ISBN: 0915145669 or 9780872204645. This text provides a decent translation of Aristotle's Greek and it includes helpful notes and a useful glossary.
3. *The Complete Works of Aristotle: The Revised Oxford Translation*, vols. 1 and 2 (esp. v. 2) Jonathan Barnes (ed.) (Princeton University Press). ISBN: 0691016518 or 978069101651. These volumes include translations of all of Aristotle's surviving works, many of which have an important bearing on the problem of interpreting the *NE*. Chief among these works are his *Eudemian Ethics*, the *Magna Moralia*, his *Politics*, *Metaphysics*, and *De Anima*.

Course Requirements

Graduate Students: Regular attendance, class participation, class presentation, and final paper.

Seminar in Continental Philosophy: Foucault on the Medical Sciences

PHIL 7030/8030

R 2:30-5:30

<Continental/Practical>

This seminar treats Michel Foucault's thought on the medical sciences. Attention to the medical sciences is a near constant in his work. From *Mental Illness and Psychology* (1954) to *The Birth of the Clinic* (1963), to the later *Collège de France* lecture courses, *Psychiatric Power* (1973-1974) and *Abnormal* (1974-1975), the thematic focus persists, even if the approaches and results vary. Indeed, and especially were one to follow his motivated disregard for the self-delineation of these sciences, we could include portions of several more lecture courses from the 1970s under this rubric, "*Society Must Be Defended*" (1975-

1976), *Security, Territory, Population* (1977-1978) and *The Birth of Biopolitics* (1978-1979), as well as portions of *The History of Sexuality, Volume I* (1976) and the posthumously published collaborative study of hospital architecture, *Les machines à guérir* (1995).

The aim of the seminar is to trace Foucault's thought on medicine and the medical sciences in key texts across his career so as to clarify his thought on a central problematic: the unique relations between what he argues are modern forms of power, scientific knowing and subjectivity. We will also attend to certain methodological and epistemological claims in the context of Foucault's thought on the medical sciences.

We will read *Mental Illness and Psychology* and *The Birth of the Clinic* in their entirety, followed by selections from *Psychiatric Power* and *Abnormal*. Time permitting, and depending on student interests, selections from the other texts mentioned above may be added. Secondary readings in French philosophy of science and in philosophy of medicine may also be required.

A long seminar paper, an annotated bibliography of works to be used in the paper, a presentation on the in-progress research for that paper (during your choice of class meeting, but no later than week 10), and regular class participation are required. The seminar paper should be the result of significant independent research.

Seminar in Contemporary Philosophy: Self and Self-Consciousness

PHIL 7203/8203

Shaun Gallagher

W 5:30-8:30

<Theoretical/Analytic/Continental>

After looking at some classical and traditional conceptions of self, we'll take up some of the contemporary debates. Debates center on issues concerning whether there is a self or not, whether there is a minimal self or not, personal and narrative identity, self-agency, self-knowledge, and responsibility, bodily and pre-reflective self-awareness, ontogenesis and pathologies of self and self-consciousness. We'll also consider feminist, post-modern, and social constructionist theories of self.

Seminar in Modern Philosophy: Hume's *Treatise*

PHIL 7301/8301

Remy Debes and John Tienson

T 5:30-8:30

<History/Major Figure>

David Hume (1711-1776) is the only avowed skeptic among the great western philosophers. He argued, for example, that we cannot have any reason to believe that there are external objects or that events have causes, that none of our reasoning concerning matters of fact is justified, that our belief that persons continue to exist over a period of time is a mere fiction, and that moral judgments are determined by feeling or sentiment rather than reason. Hume is counted among the great philosophers in large part because of

the philosophical problems posed by these skeptical arguments. He also developed a naturalistic account of our beliefs consistent with his skepticism and a sophisticated moral and political philosophy consistent with his sentimentalism

This course will be a study of Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature* (1739/40), taking account of recent Kantian responses to Hume. The first half of the course will cover Book I of the *Treatise*: "Of the Understanding," the origin of Hume's most famous skeptical arguments. In connection with this we will read Henry Allison's *Custom and Reason in Hume: a Kantian Reading of the First Book of the Treatise*, Oxford, 2008. Allison is the grand old man of North American Kant Scholars and considering his views on Hume alongside our study of the *Treatise* is sure to be illuminating.

The second half of the course will cover Books II and III of the *Treatise*: "Of the Passions" and "Of Morals," and will feature readings from contemporary Kantian moral philosophers as well as a few classic secondary-source material from Hume scholars. Although Tienson will largely take the lead in the first half of the course and Debes in the second half, both instructors will be fully engaged with every session.

Students should expect an intense reading schedule as we intend to cover most of the *Treatise*. The usual term paper will be the major basis for a grade, though some smaller assignments might also be required.

Seminar in Social/Political Philosophy: "Core Practical II"

PHIL 7551/8551

Bill Lawson

M 5:30:8:30

<Core Practical II>

This course will take as its approach a close textual reading of Hobbes' *Leviathan*, Locke's *Two Treatises of Government*, and Rousseau's *Discourses* and *On the Social Contract*. These writers are the major classical theorists of what we call the social contract tradition. We will systematically read and discuss the arguments presented by these authors for both the necessity and the legitimacy of the state and the manner in which individual autonomy can be maintained in civil society. We will also discuss the relationship of Providence to the Social Order. The aim of this course is to use these works as background information for research in Social and Political Philosophy.