



Course Schedule



Rough Schedule

Expect this schedule to change after the first few classes. The writing assignment due dates are indexed to this schedule, so they will likely change as well.

If a reading extends over two or more dates, do the reading for the first date. We will continue discussing it on the second date (no; you cannot write a precis for the second date).

August 30: Introduction and background

Early Theories of Reference

September 1: Mill, "Of Names" from *System of Logic*

September 6-8: Frege, "On Sense and Reference"

September 13-15: Russell, "On Denoting"

Later Theories of Reference

September 20-22: Wittgenstein, Selections from *Philosophical Investigations*

September 27-29: Strawson, "Logical Subjects and Particular Objects" from *Individuals*

October 4: Searle, "Proper Names"

October 6: Donellan, "Reference and Definite Description"

Analytic Metaphysics

October 13: Ayer, "The Elimination of Metaphysics"

October 18-20: Carnap, "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology"

October 25-27: Quine, "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"

Necessity and Possibility

November 1: Chisholm, "Identity Through Possible Worlds: Some Questions"

November 3-8: Kaplan, "Transworld Heir Lines"

The Enchilada

November 10: Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*, Lecture 1.

November 15: Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*, Lecture 2.

November 22: Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*, Lecture 3.

A Critical Response

November 29 - December 1: Evans, "The Causal Theory of Names"

Notes

1. With the exception of Kripke's book, readings will either be posted to blackboard or handed out in class.
2. Dates are tentative and subject to change.
3. Exact reading assignments (for example, which sections of Wittgenstein to read for which day) will be given in class.
4. The due dates for the assignments are indexed to the scheduled reading dates, and will change accordingly if the dates for the readings change.



Syllabus



Phil 4192 Analytic Philosophy

TTh 12:45-2:00
2020 K St. room 10



Professor: Eric Sidel



Overview

British and American philosophers of the first half of the 19th century believed that with careful attention to the meanings of the words in which apparent philosophical problems were raised, they would be able to resolve, or more likely, dissolve many of the traditional problems of philosophy. Once these (mostly) metaphysical worries were tended to, what remained would then be the true realm of philosophy: a kind of logico-scientific analysis of language. In many ways, this approach culminated in Saul Kripke's *Naming and Necessity* (1972) (the title of which is a reference to Carnap's classic and central work of the language-focused tradition: *Meaning and Necessity* (1947)). The tradition born of this approach to philosophy, known as analytic philosophy, is the strongest component of contemporary British and American philosophical inquiry.

We will spend the semester building towards reading *Naming and Necessity*. We will read several of the key works to which Kripke is responding and with which he is arguing. The goal will be not just to understand some of Kripke's enormous contributions to philosophy, but also to gain an understanding both the philosophy and the pros and cons of the early analytic approach to philosophy. This will help illuminate what we have inherited from this period of our philosophical history.



Texts

Saul Kripke *Naming and Necessity*

The remaining readings will either be available on blackboard or handed out in class.



WARNING!

The works covered in this course are dense pieces of difficult philosophy. Students should have some background in philosophy which includes familiarity with formal logic as well as the history of modern philosophy. Some degree of familiarity with the basic positions argued for in Descartes' *Meditations*, Locke's *Treatise*, Berkeley's *Principles* (or *Dialogues*), Hume's *Enquiry*, and Kant's *Prolegomena* (or *First Critique*) will be assumed. The number of pages of reading assigned for each class will be small, however, the reading is slow-going, and should be read thoroughly, **several times!**



Assignments

Your grade will be based on papers you write for the class, and on your class participation, as follows:

You will write four 1 page **precis**, each worth 5% of your final grade. (Note: I take seriously

the idea that these are only 1 page long.)

The precis are to be 1 page long (typed, double-spaced), and are to be small discussions about the reading due that day. The goal is that you make one brief point about what was said in the reading for that day's class. These are due by the beginning of class. If there is no reading assigned for that day, then you cannot hand in a precis on that day.

The due dates for the precis are as follows:

Precis 1: On or before September 15.

Precis 2: After September 15 and on or before October 6.

Precis 3: After October 6 and on or before October 25.

Precis 4: After October 25, but not on Kripke.

Reading between the lines, you will see that it is up to you when you write your precis.

You will write one **short paper** (3-4 pages), worth 15% of your final grade.

For your short paper, you are to read one of the supplementary readings and write a discussion of the points raised in that reading in comparison with the relevant readings we discuss in class. For each of the suggested readings I will give a general idea of the relevant required readings. If you wish, you can (after discussion with me) choose a different supplementary reading than those I have listed.

The short paper is due two weeks after we have covered the relevant required readings.

Finally, you will write two **longer papers** (5-7 pages). These are each worth 30% of your final grade.

The first is due on October 18.

The second is due on December 20 (this date is tentative and subject to change/negotiation).

All of your papers are due at the end of the day on which it is due. You should email me your paper in either Word, Word Perfect, or Rich Text Format. If you choose to skip class the day a paper is due, then the paper must be in my inbox by the beginning of class (at 12:45 PM).

The lengths I give for the longer assignments are guidelines to depth; I don't care if your paper is 4 pages long or 8 pages long, just that it is complete. The topics you write on will be up to you, but you should confer with me before you write the paper.

Last, but not least, for those who have been adding: the remaining 5% of your grade will be based on your **class participation**.



Academic Integrity

A word about Academic Honesty. I encourage you to discuss the philosophy we're studying with your classmates. However, you should not let your friends do any of the work for you. By handing in something with your name on it, you are stating that it is your work. Make sure that statement is true. (You may wish to review the University's [policy on Academic Integrity](#).)



[Course Readings](#)