

Proto-seminar
Phil 700
Course Syllabus

Instructors:

Carla Merino-Rajme
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Gillian Russell
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Time: T 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Room: CW 208

Course Description

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 philosophical skills including 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. The presentation should last for about 10-15 minutes. When there are two presenters in a single week, it is the responsibility of the two presenters to communicate ahead of time to prevent substantial overlap. Each student will be presenting three times. All the readings will be available electronically on Sakai.

You will be asked to write a short paper every week in which you are not assigned to present the material. The paper should be no more than two pages (between 800-1000 words) and can discuss any aspect of the reading. Papers are due before the start of the class when that paper is being discussed. Please turn in your paper by sending it as an email attachment to both of us –gillian_russell@unc.edu and cmerino@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.

Office hours:

Gillian Russell: Tue 4.00 – 5.30 and Fri 1.30 – 2.30, CW 203

Carla Merino-Rajme: Tue and Thu 3.30 – 4.15 and by appointment, CW 207G

Disability Accommodation

Students requiring disability accommodation, please contact the office of Accessibility Resources & Service (ARS) <https://accessibility.unc.edu> as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is expected. Please refer to

<http://studentconduct.unc.edu/students/rights-responsibilities>

An example of a violation of this policy is the use of ideas or texts from someone else without citing the source or giving the author the appropriate credit.

This syllabus and the schedule below might be readjusted as we go along. Stay tuned!

Schedule

January 15

No reading required

January 22 (Kara, Audra)

Maitra, I. "Subordinating Speech"

January 29 (Zach, Brielle)

Rinard, S. "Why Philosophy Can Overturn Common Sense"

February 5 (Yifan, Z)

Anderson, E. "If God is Dead, is everything permitted?"

February 12 (Brielle, Alexandra)

Lewis, D. "The paradoxes of time travel"

February 19 (Yifan, Zach)

Graff Fara, D. - "Shifting Sands: An interest relative theory of vagueness"

February 26 (Ben, Kara)

Nietzsche, F. "On the uses and disadvantages of history for life"

March 5 (Zach, Kara)

Gendler, T. "Alief and Belief "

March 12*No class, Spring Break *****

March 19 (Z, Audra)

Burnyeat, M. "Aristotle on learning to be good"

Leunissen, M. "Aristotle on the Person-Situation Debate. From Natural Character to Moral Virtue"

March 26

Mid-semester feedback session

April 2 (Ben, Brielle)

McGrath, S. *Skepticism about Moral Expertise as a Puzzle for Moral Realism*

April 9 (Alexandra, Audra)

Setiya, K. "The Midlife Crisis"

April 16 (Yifan, Ben)

MacFarlane, J. "Future Contingents and Relative Truth"

April 23 (Alexandra, Z)

Schechtman, A. "Substance and Independence in Descartes",
Short excerpts from:
Descartes, R. *Principles of Philosophy*
Descartes, R. *Replies to the Meditations*