

DISCUSSION SECTIONS

Tutors / teaching assistants

蒋凡一 JIANG Fanyi (Lucy), lead administrator (2000014916@stu.pku.edu.cn)

陈昱竹 CHEN Yuzhu (2301210992@stu.pku.edu.cn)

李羽基 LI Yuji (2201210992@stu.pku.edu.cn)

梁家铭 LIANG Jiaming (Frank) (2201210836@pku.edu.cn)

廖新媛 LIAO Xinyuan (2001110832@stu.pku.edu.cn)

谈知辰 TAN Zhichen (2301210997@stu.pku.edu.cn)

田浩宇 TIAN Haoyu (2301211001@pku.edu.cn)

万舒婵 WAN Shuchan (2201110934@stu.pku.edu.cn)

王睿里 WANG Ruili (2201210991@stu.pku.edu.cn)

Assignments

The participation requirement for 3-credit students includes the following weekly written assignments (which students can decide **not** to undertake at most **three times**). The two main purposes of these assignments are the regular practice of analytic writing and the preparation for the relevant lecture and discussion meetings.

- Submit one of the following to the TA that leads your discussion section by **Monday 23:59** of the relevant week via email (you can find the email address at the beginning of this page).
 - EITHER 100-word summary of the most important argument in the assigned text
 - OR 100-word answer to the study question (see below)
- Thus, for example, 3-credit students should submit their first written assignments – on the topic ‘Philosophical paradoxes’ – by 23:59 on Monday of Week 2 (26th February).

Writing advice

It is essential that you present, or at least sketch, an argument in support of your answers. In other words, please do not merely assert your answer but provide – or at least indicate – reasons, too. Similarly, when representing another author’s views, please always include an account – or at least an indication – of at least the main reason or argument the author offers in support.

Please feel free to approach the teachers with any writing-related questions anytime. You may also benefit from reading the ‘Writing advice for the 500-word essay’ on the course syllabus.

Study questions

[In chronological order. All readings will be made available in electronic form.]

1: Introduction: what is analytic philosophy?

n/a

[no reading required]

2: Philosophical paradoxes

Can one hair make the difference between being bald and being not bald?

Russell. 1912. *The Problems of Philosophy*, ‘Appearance and Reality’ (pp. 1–6)

Clark. 2007. ‘The Heap (The Bald Man, the Sorites, Little-by-little Arguments)’ (pp. 80–86)

3: Science and philosophy

Is there any interesting difference between Russell’s and Williamson’s respective positions?

Russell. 1912. *The Problems of Philosophy*, ‘The Value of Philosophy’ (pp. 89–94)

Sunday Grève and Williamson. 2022. ‘Philosophy as a Science’ (pp. 30–35)

4: AI ethics

What should a self-driving car do in the ‘Child’ case (p. 12)?

Liao. 2020. ‘A Short Introduction to the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence’, pp. 1–13

5: Dualism

to be announced

Searle. 2004. *Mind: A Brief Introduction*, pp. 13–18, 33–4

6: Physicalism

to be announced

Searle. 2004. *Mind: A Brief Introduction*, pp. 41–9, 52–61

7: Consciousness

to be announced

Jackson. 1986. 'What Mary Didn't Know' (pp. 291–5)

Frankish. 2007. 'The Anti-zombie Argument', pp. 1–3

8: Intentionality

to be announced

Putnam. 1981. *Reason, Truth and History*, pp. 303–10

Searle. 2004. *Mind: A Brief Introduction*, pp. 159–66

9: The self

Would teletransportation kill you, and would you care if it did?

Parfit. 1995. 'Reductionism and Personal Identity' (pp. 655–61)

10: The analysis of knowledge

What conditions of knowledge does the Gettier problem disconnect?

Gettier. 1963. 'Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?' (pp. 121–3)

11: Truth

to be announced

Russell. 1918. ['Do Facts Make True Whatever Is True?'] (pp. 102–6)

12: Nietzsche vs Socrates

Does Euthyphro – in any significant sense – know what piety is?

Plato. *Euthyphro* (pp. 2–16)

13: Scepticism

Is Descartes right to say 'that there are never any sure signs by means of which being awake can be distinguished from being asleep'?

Descartes. 1641. *Meditations on First Philosophy*, pp. 12–23

14: Naming and Necessity

Can Kripke explain the truth of a statement such as 'Sherlock Holmes does not exist'?

Kripke. 1972/80. *Naming and Necessity*, pp. 22–4, 26–31, 34–6, 47–9, 71, 83–5