

As an entry point into graduate studies in philosophy at Rutgers, this course aims to accomplish three things. First, it will provide an introduction to some core topics in contemporary analytic philosophy, including language, mind, metaphysics, epistemology, and value. Second, it will provide you with a chance to practice presenting, discussing, and writing philosophy. Third, we will discuss (and implement) practical issues in professional academic development.

Course Requirements

- Active reading, weekly posting online and engaged participation in class (10% of total grade).
By **Sunday at noon**, everyone not leading discussion on a given paper should post a question about that paper on the weekly forum. The post must discuss something you genuinely don't understand, and should be anchored in a specific part of the text. (Not a fancy counterexample or a general rant.)
- Three *brief* in-class presentations (20% (total) of total grade).
Your presentation should inaugurate discussion by posing 2-3 questions, using a readable 1 page handout. Your questions should be 1 sentence long, accompanied by a brief motivation/explanation/contextualization. Your presentation should be brief, efficient, and engaging, and point us toward specific passages in the text.
- One short paper (4-6 pp; c. 1000 words; 10% of total grade).
Identify, explain and critically evaluate the primary argument for one claim from one reading.
- A final presentation (10 minute presentation, 15 minutes discussion; 25% of total grade).
A 'dry run' of your final paper; it should engage critically with and build in a productive way on one of the assigned readings, and use a handout or powerpoint to aid presentation.
- A final paper (15-25 pp.; c. 7500 words; 25% of total grade).
Ideally, a paper with the shape and feel of a publishable article.

We will begin class with **30 minutes** of professional development. After a brief break, either Michael or Liz will provide a quick overview of the very general topic raised by the week's readings, followed by presenter-led discussions of each paper, separated by a brief break.

One of our primary goals for the course is for you to develop a strong sense of philosophical professionalism and community. This means that we expect you to read actively in advance of each meeting, engage respectfully and reflectively with each others' questions and ideas in class, and solicit and provide feedback to one another informally outside of class.

One important aspect of professional conduct is crediting others for their ideas and assistance. To this end, you should (minimally) familiarize yourself with and abide by RU's [policy](#) on academic and intellectual integrity. Another important aspect of becoming a professional philosopher is learning balance your professional obligations with your responsibility to take care of yourself as a person, but it is not always obvious or easy how to do this. Rutgers' grad counseling services can be contacted [here](#). If you need accommodations for the class because of a learning disability or another reason, have the Office of Disability Services (ods.rutgers.edu) get in touch with us.

Schedule and Readings

As with all things in life, our schedule is provisional. All readings, except *Naming and Necessity*, are available on Canvas.

September 12 Introduction

Expectations and Strategies for Getting a PhD

Bennett and Gorovitz: "Improving Academic Writing"

Language(s), Analysis, and Metaphysics

September 19: Levels and Types of Meaning

Cultivating Colleagues, Mentors, and Advisors

Frege: "On Sense and Reference," "Function and Concept"

September 26: Definite Descriptions

Participating in Seminars and Colloquia

Russell: "On Denoting" *Isabel*

Strawson: "On Referring" *Caroline*

October 3: Semantics and Pragmatics

Delivering Presentations

Grice: "Logic and Conversation" *Isabel*

Roberts: "Context in Dynamic Interpretation" *Itamar*

October 10: Names and Reference

How to Go to Conferences

Kripke: *Naming and Necessity* *AG*

Fara: "Names are Predicates" *Trevor*

October 17

Commenting at Conferences

Overflow/catch-up on language

October 24: Metaphysics and Meaning

Chairing Sessions

Carnap: "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology" *Itamar*

Paul: "Metaphysics as Modeling" *Adrian*

October 31: Metaphysics and Science

Writing a Publishable Paper

Putnam: "The Refutation of Conventionalism" *Amanda*

Van Fraassen: "The Manifest Image and the Scientific Image" *Trevor*

November 7: Ontology and Multiplicity

How Philosophy Gets Published

Thomson: "The Statue and the Clay" *Amanda*

Lewis: "Many, but Almost One" *Trevor*

Epistemology, Mind, and Value**November 14: Inquiry and Common Ground**

Writing Referee Reports

Stalnaker: "Assertion" *Itamar*

Friedman: "Inquiry and Belief" *Adrian*

November 21: Knowledge beyond Immediacy

Writing a Dissertation

Gettier: "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?" *Isabel*

Goldman: "Experts: Which Ones Should You Trust?" *Amanda*

Short paper due 11/22

November 28: Cognitive Architecture

Balancing Work and Life

Fodor: "Why There Still Has to Be a Language of Thought" *Liz*

Dennett: "True Believers" *Caroline*

December 5: Irrationalities

Open topic/discussion

Leslie: "The Original Sin of Cognition: Fear, Prejudice and Generalization" *AG*

Mandelbaum: "Thinking is Believing" *Caroline*

December 12: Obligation, Permissibility and Virtue

Open topic/discussion

Thomson: "A Defense of Abortion" *AG*

Annas: "Applying Virtue to Ethics" *Adrian*

Dec 19 Mini-Conference**Jan 13 Long paper due**