

Sample Syllabus: Metaphilosophy

Instructor

Name: David Mokriski

Email: dmokriski@gmail.com

Lectures

Time: TBA

Place: TBA

Office Hours

Time: TBA

Place: TBA

Course Description

This is a course on metaphilosophy (aka ‘the philosophy of philosophy’), which is the philosophical study of philosophy itself. Broad questions we will address include what philosophy is, how it should be done, and why it should be done. More specific questions include what the relationship is between philosophy and science, whether philosophy can produce genuine knowledge about the world, and how we should respond to philosophical disagreement. We will take a look at novel approaches to philosophy, including experimental philosophy and conceptual engineering, different traditions within philosophy (e.g. Analytic vs. Continental), and feminist critiques of mainstream philosophy.

Required Text

The required text for this course is *An Introduction to Metaphilosophy* by Søren Overgaard, Paul Gilbert, and Stephen Burwood. It is available for purchase in the UCSB bookstore or online. I will also post pdfs of articles and book chapters on Gauchospace as supplementary readings. (See the schedule on the next page for a list of the supplementary readings.)

Course Requirements

Here is the grading breakdown with tentative due dates:

Weekly Homework Assignments – 35% (5% each) – Due Mondays

Take-Home Midterm Exam – 30% – Due Monday (TBA) of Week 7

Take-Home Final Exam – 35% – Due Wednesday (TBA) of Finals Week

Participation – Can bump grade up

Weekly Homework

The homework assignments consist of several short-answer questions from the material covered in lecture and/or the readings that week. No homework will be assigned weeks 5, 6, and 10.

Take-Home Exams

There are two take-home exams consisting of several short-essay questions on material covered in lecture and/or the readings. The final exam will be cumulative.

Tentative Schedule

We will try, as far as possible, to keep to the following schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1.	Intro to Metaphilosophy	<i>Chap 1: Intro: what good is metaphilosophy?</i> <i>Chap 2: What is philosophy?</i>
2.	Philosophy and Science	<i>Chap 3: Philosophy, science and the humanities</i> <i>Naturalism: Varieties & Viability</i> – Williamson, Rosenberg
3.	Philosophical Methodology	<i>A Historical Survey of Philosophical Methodology</i> – Daly <i>Chap 4: The data of philosophical arguments</i>
4.	Metaphilosophical Skepticism	<i>Philosophical Scepticism and the Aims of Phil.</i> – Beebee <i>The What and Why of Relativism</i> – Baghramian & Coliva
5.	Traditional Armchair Philosophy	<i>The Problem of A Priori Justification</i> – Bonjour <i>Armchair Philosophy</i> – Williamson
6.	Philosophical Disagreement	<i>Disagreement as Evidence</i> – Christensen <i>Verbal Disagreements & Phil. Scepticism</i> – Ballantyne
7.	New Approaches to Philosophy	<i>Analytic Epist & Experimental Phil</i> – Alexander, Weinberg <i>Conceptual Engineering: The Master Argument</i> – Cappelen
8.	Traditions within Philosophy	<i>Chap 5: Analytic and continental philosophy</i> <i>Comparative Philosophy and Cultural Patterns</i> – Li
9.	Feminist Philosophy	<i>Defining Feminist Philosophy</i> – Alcoff and Kittay <i>Feminist Metaphysics & Phil. Methodology</i> – Mikkola
10.	Good Philosophy and Philosophy's Good	<i>Chap 7: What is good philosophy?</i> <i>Chap 8: What good is philosophy?</i> <i>Justifying a Large Part of Philosophy</i> – Frances

Disability Policy

If you need accommodations, please speak to me in advance and make arrangements with Disabled Students Services (DSP) at <http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu>.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty, such as plagiarizing, will be punished. For more info on what constitutes academic dishonesty, see judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/AcademicIntegrity.aspx.

Final Note

Please feel free to bring any concerns about the course to my attention. This syllabus is liable to change, and you are responsible for any changes given adequate notice.