

PHIL 200: First Year Graduate Seminar

UC Berkeley, Fall 2018

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Course Requirements:

- **Reading and attendance:** Each week we will meet to discuss one article-length piece of philosophy. Please read the material carefully before the meeting. You are expected to attend every meeting and actively participate in the discussion.
- **Papers:** One paper every two weeks (no more than 1200 words). Half of you will write a paper one week, the other half the next week, and so on. Your paper should critically engage with some aspect of the reading for that week. Please submit your paper by the end of the day on Monday of that week. Your paper will be made accessible to everyone in the class.
- **Peer engagement:** Before we meet on Wednesday, please read the papers by your peers on the material for that week.
- **Presentations:** Every week one of you who did *not* write a paper will start the meeting with a presentation on the reading. The presentation should walk us through the main line argument of the paper and should take no more than 20 minutes. Each of you will do two presentations during the semester.

Course Mechanics:

- All readings will be available in the Google Drive “Phil200” which will be shared with you via your Berkeley email address. See the folder marked “Readings”.
- Please submit your papers via the same Google Drive. Click on “Papers” and upload your paper in the folder marked with the date of the class that week. Please note that everyone in the class will have access to your paper.
- For the purposes of writing papers we have divided you into two groups. Group A: Isabella, Scott, William. Group B: Ajay, Daniel, Evan. See the “Reading Schedule” below for information on when you are expected to submit a paper.

Reading Schedule:

- Aug 29** G. E. Moore, *Principia Ethica* Chapter 1, “The Subject-Matter of Ethics,” §§1-14.
Papers: Group A. Presentation: Ajay.
- Sept 5** J. L. Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong* Chapter 1: “The Subjectivity of Values.” Papers: Group B. Presentation: Isabella.
- Sept 12** T. Nagel, *A View From Nowhere*, Chapter 8: “Value.” Papers: Group A.
Presentation: Daniel.
- Sept 19** C. Korsgaard, *The Sources of Normativity* Lecture 1: “The Normative Question.”
Papers: Group B. Presentation: Scott.
- Sept 26** C. Korsgaard, *The Sources of Normativity* Lecture 2: “Reflective Endorsement.”
Papers: Group A. Presentation: Evan.
- Oct 3** C. Korsgaard, *The Sources of Normativity* Lecture 3: “The Authority of Reflection.” Papers: Group B. Presentation: William.
- Oct 10** S. Street, “A Darwinian Dilemma for Realist Theories of Value.” Papers: Group A.
Presentation: Ajay.
- Oct 17** R. Carnap, “Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology.” Papers: Group B.
Presentation: Isabella.
- Oct 24** W. V. O. Quine, “Two Dogmas of Empiricism.” Papers: Group A. Presentation:
Daniel.
- Oct 31** H. Putnam, “Realism and Reason.” Papers: Group B. Presentation: Scott.
- Nov 7** D. Lewis, “Putnam’s Paradox.” Papers: Group A. Presentation: Evan.
- Nov 14** T. Sider, “Ontological Realism.” Papers: Group B. Presentation: William.
- Nov 21** NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING
- Nov 28** A. Thomasson, “What Can We Do, When We Do Metaphysics?”