

PHILOSOPHY 4298: SENIOR SEMINAR— “MIND AND WORLD”

TUES./THRS., 2:00PM-3:20PM

Instructor: Lara Ostaric
Office: 737 Anderson Hall
E-mail: lostaric@temple.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00PM-2:00PM, Thursdays 5:00PM-6:00PM, and Fridays by appointment.

Course Goals: The Senior Seminar is the capstone course for undergraduate philosophy majors. It has six primary goals:

1. To consolidate critical philosophical reading/understanding skills through use of the micro-essays
2. To consolidate philosophical writing skills by writing a high-quality seminar paper on a philosophical topic of the student's choice
3. To consolidate oral skills in philosophical exposition and argument, through class presentation and discussion
4. To give students an overview of academic philosophy, completing any large gaps in philosophical topics and techniques
5. To give students the opportunity to form a philosophical community through responding to each other's work
6. To give students the library skills to do research in philosophy

Canvas and E-mail: This course makes use of Canvas. In order to access Canvas, you will need to use your Temple e-mail account. If you experience any difficulties with Canvas, please contact the Computer Help Desk or me. I will be using your Temple e-mail accounts to communicate with you occasionally over the course of semester. If you use another e-mail address, please arrange for your Temple e-mail to forward your incoming mail automatically. I usually reply within 48 hours to any e-mail that you send me (if I am out of town and away from e-mail, you will get an automatic reply to that effect).

Required Texts:

John McDowell, *Mind and World*, Harvard University Press, 1996. (Available in the Temple University Bookstore.)

John McDowell, “Two Sorts of Naturalism,” *Reason, Value, and Reality*, Ch. 9, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001, 167-197. (Available on Canvas.)

Robert Pippin, "Leaving Nature Behind: On John McDowell's *Mind and World*," *The Persistence of Subjectivity*, Ch. 9, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005, 186-205. (Available on Canvas.)

Assignments and Evaluation:

Attendance and participation	15%
Micro-essays	15% three, to be assigned
Class presentation	10%, two, to be assigned
Paper topic and librarian assignment	3%
Paper outline and annotated bibliography	7%,
Rough draft of paper	10%
Class presentation of paper	5%,
Seminar paper (4000-6000 words)	35%

No late assignments will be accepted. Exceptions will be made for medical and family emergencies.

Grading Scale

93% and higher = A	80.0%-82.9% = B-	67.0%-69.9% = D+
90.0%-92.9% = A-	77.0%-79.9% = C+	63.0-66.9% = D
87.0%-89.9% = B+	73.0%-76.9% = C	60.0%-62.9% = D-
83.0%-86.9% = B	70.0%-72.9% = C-	59.9% and below = F

Attendance Policy:

I will be taking attendance at each class. Students who must be absent from a class should inform me by email prior to the class that they will miss. I reserve the right to fail any student who misses two or more classes. Late arrival or early departure will count as half an absence unless excused before the beginning of class.

Academic Honesty:

All students are expected to be familiar with Temple University's policies on academic honesty. For reference, see the "Temple University Student Code of Conduct" at <http://policies.temple.edu> (policy number 03.70.02)

Academic Rights and Responsibilities Policy:

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted the policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities posted at <http://policies.temple.edu> (policy number 03.70.02)

Incomplete Policy:

I follow the incomplete policy of the College of Liberal Arts. It is stated at <http://www.temple.edu/cla/Advising/Faculty/incomplete.asp>
Incompletes are granted only in documented cases of interfering circumstances beyond the student's control (such as illness, disability or family emergency). Incomplete contracts should be completed and signed preferably by the last day of classes and in all cases by the day that the seminar paper is due.

Disability Statement:

This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirement for participation. Any student who has a need for special accommodation because of a disability should contact me to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. I will work with Disability Resources and Services (215-204-1280; 100 Ritter Annex) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Please register with Disability Resources and Services *in advance*, if you have a relapsing/remitting disability and there is a possibility it may interfere with your work this semester.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

(All readings are due on the date given and not on the following class meeting.)

- Week 1 01/14 Introduction
(Students select two topics each for small group presentations)
- 01/16 “Two Sorts of Naturalism” §§1 through 7
 Presenters:
- Week 2 01/21 “Two Sorts of Naturalism,” §§8 through 12
 First Micro-essay Due
- 01/23 Robert Pippin, “Leaving Nature Behind”
 Presenters:
- Week 3 01/28 MW, Ch. 1 “Concepts and Intuitions,” §§ 1 through 5
 Presenters:
- 01/30 MW, Ch. 1 “Concepts and Intuitions,” §§ 6 through 8
 Second micro-essay due.
- Week 4 02/04 MW, Ch. 2 “The Unboundedness of the Conceptual,”
 §§1 through 4
 Presenters:
- 02/06 MW, Ch. 2 “The Unboundedness of the Conceptual,”
 §§5 through 10

**Presenters:
Paper topic and librarian assignment due**

- Week 5 02/11 MW, Ch. 3 “Non-conceptual Content,” §§ 1 through 4
Third Micro Essay Due.
- 02/13 MW, Ch. 3 “Non-conceptual Content,” §§ 5 through 7
Presenters:
- Week 6 02/18 MW, Ch.4 “Reason and Nature,” §§ 1 through 4
Presenters:
- 02/23 MW, Ch. 4 “Reason and Nature,” §§ 5 through 8
Presenters:
- Week 7 02/25 MW, Ch. 5 “Action, Meaning, and the Self,” §§1-4
Presenter:
- 02/27 **Library Session**
- Week 8 03/03 SPRING BREAK
03/05 SPRING BREAK
- Week 9 03/10 MW, Ch. 5 “Action, Meaning, and the Self,” §§5-6, Postscript to
Lecture V
Paper outline and annotated bibliography due.
- 03/12 NO CLASS
- Week 10 03/17 NO CLASS
- 03/19 MW, Ch. 6 “Rational and Other Animals,” §§ 1-5
Presenters:
- Feedback on outline and bibliography given.**
- Week 11 03/24 MW, Ch. 6 “Rational and Other Animals,” §§ 6-8, Postscript to
Lecture 6
Presenters:
- 03/26 **Workshop: Preliminary discussion of student drafts**

Week 12 03/31 **Paper drafts due**
 Paper presentations
 04/02 Paper presentations

Week 13 04/07 Paper presentations
 04/09 Paper presentations

Week 14 04/14 Paper presentations
 04/16 Paper presentations

Week 15 04/21 Paper presentations
 04/23 Paper presentations

Term paper due Friday, May 01, 2020 by 5:00PM.