

First-Year Seminar
Fall 2012

Instructor	Instructor	Course Details
Ben Caplan	Declan Smithies	Course # 8100
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Office: UH 372	Office: UH 350B	Location: UH 353
Office Hours: W F 2.30-3.15	Office Hours: T Th 3.45-4.30	Time: W 4.00-6.45

Course Description

This seminar will be organized around the work of David Lewis, one of the most important philosophers of the twentieth century. We will study some of his most influential contributions in metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of language, and philosophy of mind. In addition, one of the primary goals of the seminar will be to provide an intensive forum for developing core skills in writing and presenting philosophy.

Course Requirements

- *Attendance and participation:* You should come to each class prepared to participate actively in class discussion having carefully studied the primary reading and having explored as much of the supplementary reading as you can.
- *Weekly writing assignments:* 1-2 pages on a question about the primary reading for that week.
- *Presentations:* One 20-minute presentation on the topic of your seminar paper at our final meeting on 28 November.
- *Seminar paper:* 15-20 pages on a topic of your choice. You must meet with both of us before 7 November to discuss your topic. A draft of your paper will be due by email on 21 November. The final version of your paper will be due by email on 12 December.
- *Grades:* We will assign grades largely on the basis of your seminar paper, although we will also take into consideration your participation in class discussion, presentations, and weekly writing assignments, especially in resolving borderline cases.

Provisional Schedule of Readings

- 22 August: *On the Plurality of Worlds*, Chapter 1
- 29 August: *On the Plurality of Worlds*, Chapter 2
- 5 September: *On the Plurality of Worlds*, Chapter 3
- 12 September: *On the Plurality of Worlds*, Chapter 4
- 19 September: “New Work for a Theory of Universals”
- 26 September: “Radical Interpretation”
- 3 October: “Psychophysical and Theoretical Identifications”
- 10 October: No Class
- 17 October: “Mad Pain and Martian Pain” or “What Experience Teaches”
- 24 October: “Ramseyan Humility”
- 31 October: “Elusive Knowledge”
- 7 November: TBA
- 14 November: No Class
- 21 November: Thanksgiving
- 28 November: Presentations

Course Materials

All course materials will be posted online, but we encourage you to consider buying the following books for your own philosophy library:

- David Lewis, *On the Plurality of Worlds* (we’ll be reading this in its entirety)
- David Lewis, *Papers in Metaphysics and Epistemology*
- David Lewis, *Philosophical Papers, Volume I*

Academic Misconduct

In accordance with Faculty Rule 3335-5-487, all suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the university’s Committee on Academic Misconduct. For further details, see the Code of Student Conduct at http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. For further information, see the website of the Office of Disability Services at <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.