

First-Year Seminar
Fall 2014

Instructor	Instructor	Course Details
Ben Caplan	Declan Smithies	Philosophy 8100
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Office: UH 372	Office: UH 350B	Location: UH 353
Office Hours: M 2:15 PM – 3:45 PM, or by appointment	Office Hours: TBC	Time: Th 12.40-3.25

Course Description

This seminar will be organized around the work of Tyler Burge, one of the most important philosophers working today. We will study some of his most influential contributions in the history of analytic philosophy, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, and epistemology. 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 an assigned question about the primary reading for each week.
- *Reading presentations:* Two short presentations on an assigned question about the primary reading for that week.
- *Paper presentations:* Two short presentations of proposals for your seminar papers in class on 9 October and 20 November.
- *Seminar papers:* Two 10-page seminar papers on a topic of your choice and due by email on 23 October and 4 December.
- *Grades:* We will assign grades largely on the basis of your seminar papers, but we will also take into consideration your participation in class discussion, presentations, and weekly writing assignments, especially in resolving borderline cases.

Course Materials

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

- Tyler Burge, *Truth, Thought, Reason: Essays on Frege*.
- Tyler Burge, *Foundations of Mind: Philosophical Essays, Volume 2*.
- Tyler Burge, *Cognition Through Understanding, Volume 3*.

Provisional Schedule of Readings

- 28 August: Semantics of Proper Names. Burge, “Reference and Proper Names.”
- 4 September: Historical Background. Frege, “On Sense and Reference” and selections from Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*.
- 11 September: Frege on Semantic Content. Burge, “*Sinning Against Frege.*”
- 18 September: Frege’s Rationalism. Burge, “Frege on Knowing the Foundation” and selections from Frege, *Foundations of Arithmetic*.
- 25 September: Belief Content. Burge, “Individualism and the Mental.”
- 2 October: No Class. [Declan is away.]
- 9 October: Paper Presentations.
- 16 October: Perceptual Content. Burge, “Individualism and Psychology.”
- 23 October: Perceptual Knowledge. Burge, “Perceptual Entitlement.” [First paper deadline.]
- 30 October: Testimonial Knowledge. Burge, “Content Preservation.”
- 6 November: Self-Knowledge. Burge, “Individualism and Self-Knowledge.”
- 13 November: Critical Reasoning. Burge, “Our Entitlement to Self-Knowledge.”
- 20 November: Paper Presentations.
- 27 November: Thanksgiving.
- 4 December: No Class. [Second paper deadline.]

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/>.