Description

The seminar is on fictional realism, the view that there are fictional characters. In particular, it is on abstract creationism, the variety of fictional realism according to which fictional characters are actually existing abstract objects.

The seminar will be structured about Lectures I-III and VI of Saul Kripke’s Reference and Existence and Chapters 6-8 of Anthony Everett’s The Nonexistent. We will be proceeding slowly and discussing the texts in some detail. Students are expected to have done the reading before seminar and to have access to the texts during seminar. Previous familiarity with Kripke’s Naming and Necessity would be helpful but won’t entirely be assumed. (We’ll begin with a crash course.)

Topics to be covered will include some of the following: arguments for and against the existence of fictional characters; arguments for and against the creation of fictional characters; the distinction between instantiating a property and instantiating a property according to a fiction; the differences, if any, between fictional and mythical objects; negative existentials; the identity and distinctness of fictional characters; and (relatedly) the number of fictional characters.

Requirements

The course grade will be based on one seminar paper (10-15 pages).

Schedule

There is no class on Thursday, 19 February 2015 (Central APA); Thursday, 5 March 2015 (Auburn conference); or Thursday, 19 March 2015 (spring break). Depending on how things go, there might or might not be class on Thursday, 23 April 2015 (last week of the semester). A detailed schedule will be posted and updated on Carmen as we go.

In accordance with Faculty Rule 3335-8-15, which prohibits any change in the time of a scheduled class without the approval of the registrar’s office, chairs, and deans, I will not officially change the starting time of the seminar to 4 PM.
**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 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 me as soon as possible of their needs. For further information, see the website of the Office of Disability Services at www.ods.ohio-state.edu.

**Readings**

*Main readings*


*Additional readings*


Analysis 74.4 (Oct.): 615-622.
Metaphysics, Mathematics, and Meaning: Philosophical Papers I. Oxford:
Clarendon, 2005. 50-90.
Schnieder, Benjamin. 2010. “Bad Examples?” American Philosophical Quarterly 47.3
(July): 279-286.
Quarterly 59.234 (Jan.): 138-149.
Philosophy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
14.4 (Oct.): 299-308. Reprinted in Ontology, Identity, and Modality: Essays in
University Press. 37-57.
—. 2003. “Existence, Ontological Commitment, and Fictional Entities.” In The
Oxford Handbook of Metaphysics. Ed. Michael J. Loux and Dean W.
von Solodkoff, Tatjana. 2014. “Fictional Realism and Negative Existentials.” In
Empty Representations: Reference and Non-Existence. Ed. Manuel García-