PHIL 607 Sem Pro Analytic Phil. SPRING 2012.  Prof. Naomi Zack

CRN  35293   10-11:50 mw 314 PLC Zack N;  Office 338 PLC  541-346-1547 nzack@uoregon.edu
4.00 cr. Optional grading. 2cr Reading credit available.

The purpose of the seminar is to engage 20th century analytic philosophy in four different ways:
(1) Relating conceptual analysis and empiricism to ancient philosophy.
(2) Considering an historical overview
(3) Seminar type readings of classic analytic texts
(4) Use of contemporary secondary sources.

Materials*
NZ’s Historical Overview of Analytic Philosophy (on blackboard under course documents)
Plato’s Republic, Book I, ibid.
A.P. Martinich and David Sosa, eds. Analytic Philosophy: An Anthology
A.P. Martinich and David Sosa, eds. A Companion to Analytic Philosophy

*In addition, but not required, there is an explanation of truth functional logic on blackboard. For reference material related to the course, see the Bibliography at the end of the Historical Overview.

Grade Components – 1/2 participation and presentations, ¼ first paper, ¼ last paper. Your participation and discussion are the biggest component of the course, as well as the grade, because the aim of the course is to become knowledgeable and fluent about classic problems and key figures in 20th century analytic philosophy.

SCHEDULE - Weeks
I. Introduction, Plato and Waldow
What are the philosophical moves Plato makes in approaching justice and what is his aim?
How would you describe Galen’s empiricism?

II – III  Zack’s overview (at 71 pages, plan on being ready to discuss about 18pp a class, proceeding chronologically.
First paper due Monday of Week IV : with reference to class discussion, Plato , the consideration of ancient medical empiricism, and with an emphasis on the content of the historical overview, write a 5-6 page double spaced answer to this question.
WHAT IS TWENTIETH CENTURY ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY?

Weeks IV –X > Readings are from Martinich and Sosa, as indicated by author’s last name, and proceeding chronologically through that book. In addition, when you are leading the discussion/presenting, you should read the essay in Martinich and Sosa’s Companion to Analytic Philosophy. It is hoped but not required that all students will read through all of this secondary source, over the course of the term.
Student discussion leading/presentations will be equally divided for some of the assigned readings in M and S. Handouts are encouraged but optional, but in reading from notes, please limit what you are reading from to 500 words for each essay.
Week IV – Philosophy of Language
Frege, “Thought,” and Hilary Putnam, “Meaning and Reference” (secondary sources also)

Week V-Metaphysics

Week VI – Epistemology

Week VII – Philosophy of Mind
Davidson, “Mental Events,” Nagel, “What is it Like to be a Bat? Also and on BB, Kathleen Akins, “What is it Like to be Boring and Myopic?” Lewis, “Mad Pain and Martian Pain” Searle, “Can Computers Think?”

Week VIII- Freedom and Personal Identity

Week IX – Ethics

Week X-Methodology

Last Paper due Monday of Week XI, in Philosophy office. Write a 5-6 page essay from ONE of the following, referring to the articles in both M and S anthologies, as relevant.

A. Assess Strawson’s “On Referring” disagreement with Russell’s “On Denoting.”
B. Assess Grice and Strawson’s “In Defense of a Dogma” as criticism of W. V. Quine’s “Two Dogmas of Empiricism.”
C. Provide an Account of J.L. Austin’s “A Plea for Excuses” and assess it.
D. Explain Frege’s innovation in “On Sense and Reference”