

Metaethics

SLU: PHIL 6300

UMSL: PHIL 4437/5537

Spring 2016

Wednesday, 5:30-8:00pm in SLU Adorjan 343 (default) and UMSL Clark 308 (occasional)

INSTRUCTORS:

Eric Wiland, Associate Professor (UMSL), wiland@umsl.edu, 314-516-5495

Kathryn Lindeman, Assistant Professor (SLU), lindemankm@slu.edu 412-606-6351

OFFICE HOURS:

Lindeman: 214 Adorjan Hall, Tuesday 10-noon, and by appointment.

Wiland: 561 Lucas Hall, Tuesday, 1-4pm, and by appointment.

TEXTS:

Metaethics: A Contemporary Introduction, Mark van Roojen (Routledge, 2015).

Other readings available on Dropbox:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jjy7ufw7uzyw3oh/AAD0Y_CBGBf8z79nCSu30ntda?dl=0

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Weekly responses:

Each week you will write a paragraph-to-page response to the assigned reading emailed to both instructors by midnight Wednesday, which will be used as the basis for class discussion. Your response can be either about an extended question you have, a counterexample, a worry, an expression of confusion, or anything else that might be useful to both you and the rest of the class, and that demonstrates an attempt to understand the assigned reading. To pass the class, you must turn in on time at least ten responses during the semester.

Attendance and Participation:

Regular attendance and participation is, although ungraded, expected of all students.

Graded writing assignments:

There are two options for completing the seminar:

OPTION 1: Seminar-length paper (5000+ words).

Min 3000 word draft due April 13th, final draft due May 4th.

OPTION 2: Colloquium length paper & Presentation:

Requirements:

1. presentation-length paper (max 3000 words, exclusive of footnotes and citations)
2. abstract (max 150 words)
3. synopsis (between 500 - 750 words)

4. talk handout (max one page, front and back)
5. 20 min in-class colloquium-style APA talk
6. typed commentary on another colloquium paper
7. 10 min in-class presentation of colloquium-style APA comments

In order to complete the seminar with the Conference Paper Option, students must meet the following time-schedule:

- March 30 - meet with either Eric (March 9) or Kathryn (March 30) to work on an abstract
 April 6 - submit draft synopsis
 April 13/20 - distribute a copy of the paper to commentator and Eric & Kathryn (papers must be presented without substantial revision of arguments or points)
 by April 20/27 - meet with either Eric or Kathryn to discuss your handout.
 April 25/May 2 (two days before giving comments) - distribute a copy of the comments to presenter and Eric & Kathryn (comments must be presented unchanged)
 April 27/May 4 (day of presentation) - turn in copy of the presented paper, handout to Eric & Kathryn
 May 4/May 11 (week after presentation) - turn in paper revised in light of commentary, abstract, and synopsis to Eric & Kathryn

(Note: the Central APA submission deadline is June 1st and the Chapel Hill Metaethics Workshop submission deadline is May 1st. Aim high!)

SCHEDULE:

- JANUARY 13 (SLU ONLY): *MACI*, chapter 1.
- JANUARY 20: *MACI*, chapter 2.
 [Moore, Principia Ethica, ch 1 § 1-15.](#)
 Mackie 1977
 Geach 1965 (recommended)
- JANUARY 27: *MACI*, chapter 3.
 Harman 1977
- FEBRUARY 3: *MACI*, chapter 4.
 Williams 1979
 Korsgaard 1986
 Smith 1987 (recommended)
- FEBRUARY 10: *MACI*, chapter 5.
 Joyce 2008

- Street 2015
Vavova 2014
Street 2006 (recommended)
- FEBRUARY 17: *MACI*, chapter 6.
Harman 1975
Dreier 1990
- FEBRUARY 24: *MACI*, chapter 7.
Firth 1952
McDowell 1985
- MARCH 2: *MACI*, chapter 8.
Chs. 2-4 of Schroeder's *Noncognitivism in Ethics*
- MARCH 9 (UMSL ONLY): WORKSHOP FOR UMSL SPEAKERS (ABSTRACTS DUE)
- MARCH 16: *MACI*, chapter 9.
Nolan, Restall, West 2005
- MARCH 23: *MACI*, chapter 10.
Foot 1972
Foot 2000
Foot 2004 (recommended)
- MARCH 30 (SLU ONLY) WORKSHOP FOR SLU SPEAKERS (OUTLINES DUE)
- APRIL 6: *MACI*, chapter 11.
Railton 1986
Sturgeon 1985
- APRIL 13: *MACI*, chapter 12.
Something by M. Smith, TBD.
Michael Smith (Princeton) visiting class.
- APRIL 20: *MACI*, chapter 13.
Shafer-Landau 2006.
- APRIL 27: Student talks
- MAY 4 (UMSL ONLY): Student talks

This schedule is tentative; assigned readings are open to revision.