

Philosophy 232, Spring 17, G. Sher, Wed. 4-7

Topic: *The Philosophy of Philosophy*, Timothy Williamson

The goal of the seminar is a conversation with Williamson and among ourselves on the nature of philosophy. Paraphrasing the title of a forthcoming conference, "Quo Vadis, Metaphysics?", I think of this seminar as providing a stimulus for a discussion of "Where Are You Going, Philosophy?".

Grades: Class presentation and paper. Area: The seminar can be used to fulfil requirements in Epistemology, Metaphysics, and Philosophy of Language.

W 4/5	Preface. Introduction. Ch. 1. The Linguistic Turn and the Conceptual Turn
W 4/12*	No Class
W 4/19	Ch. 2. Taking Philosophical Questions at Face Value
F 4/21*	Make Up Class: Ch. 3. Metaphysical Conceptions of Analyticity
W 4/26	Ch. 4. Epistemological Conceptions of Analyticity
W 5/3	Cont.
W 5/10	Ch. 5. Knowledge of Metaphysical Modality
W 5/17	Ch. 6. Thought Experiments
W 5/24	Ch. 7. Evidence in Philosophy
W 5/31	Ch. 8. Knowledge and Maximization
W 7/7	Afterword: Must Do Better

Readings:

The course will focus on an in-depth reading of *The Philosophy of Philosophy*.

Students are encouraged to select their own additional readings according to what seems to them most fruitful and stimulating based on their own interests and reaction to the text.

Background material, including, among others, Williamson's books: *Vagueness*, *Knowledge & Its Limits*, *Modal Logic as Metaphysics*, will be available in the philosophy library (the first two) or the internet (the last). List will be given in our first meeting.