

Naturalism

Fall 2003 - Winter 2004

This course will trace the history and examine the present of naturalistic philosophy. Along the way, I'll lay out my own pet version, Second Philosophy, and use it as a foil for the rest.

The default requirement is three short papers (3-5 pages, that is, 750 to 1250 words) due at the beginning of classes in the 4th, 7th, and 10th weeks. Each of these should focus on one point in the readings and include some commentary or critique as well as exposition. Alternatives can be negotiated. Please come to the first meeting (10/2) prepared to discuss Topic (1).

Topics:

1. Descartes and First Philosophy

Broughton, *Descartes's Method of Doubt*, introduction and chapters 1, 3, and 4.

Maddy, 'Second philosophy', pp. 1-13.

(You may also want to review Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, especially the First Meditation.)

2. Neo-Cartesian Skepticism

Stroud, *The Significance of Philosophical Scepticism*, chapters I and II.

(Stroud, 'Understanding human knowledge in general'.)

(Broughton, *Descartes's Method of Doubt*, pp. 82-93.)

Williams, 'Epistemological realism and the basis of scepticism'.

Stroud, 'Epistemological reflection on knowledge of the external world'.

Maddy, 'Second philosophy', pp. 13-26.

(Those bitten by this bug might look into Williams' *Unnatural Doubts*, and the other essays of Stroud.)

3. Humean Naturalism

Strawson, *Skepticism and Naturalism: Some Varieties*, pp. 1-14.

Williams, *Unnatural Doubts*, pp. 1-13.

Stroud, *Hume*, chapter 1 and pp. 110-117, 219-224, 245-250.

(Mounce, *Hume's Naturalism*, chapter 1 and pp. 131-132.)

Broughton, 'Hume's naturalism about cognitive norms'.

(You might want to brush up your Hume, especially the introduction and I.IV of the *Treatise*, even more especially, sections I, II, and VII, or the *Inquiry*, especially section XII.)

4. Kant and Reichenbach

(Maddy, 'Naturalism and the a priori', pp. 92-102.)

Coffa, *To the Vienna Station*, chapter 10.

Reichenbach, 'Logistic empiricism in Germany and the present state of its problems'.

'The philosophical significance of the theory of relativity', pp. 307-310.

(Maddy, 'Naturalism: friend and foes', pp. 38-39, 46.)

Friedman, 'Truth and confirmation'.

(Körner and Ewing give introductions to Kant. Stroud treats Kant's response to skepticism in chapter IV of *The Significance of Philosophical Scepticism*.)

5. Carnap and Quine

Carnap, 'Empiricism, semantics, and ontology'.

'Elimination of pseudo-problems from the theory of knowledge', (part II of 'Pseudo-problems in philosophy').

'Replies', pp. 868-871.

Stroud, *Significance of Philosophical Skepticism*, chapter V.

Wedberg, 'Decision and belief in science'.

Quine, 'On what there is'.

'Two dogmas of empiricism', pp. 42-46.

'Carnap's views on ontology'.

'Carnap and logical truth', sections V, VI, and X.

Carnap, 'Replies', pp. 921-922.

Maddy, 'Naturalism and the a priori', pp. 102-106, 111-112.

(Richardson, *Carnap's Construction of the World*, chapter 1, pp. 198-206, and chapter 9).

6. Metaphysics naturalized

- Quine, 'On what there is'.
'Two dogmas of empiricism', pp. 42-46.
'Five milestones of empiricism'.
'Posits and reality'.
Maddy, 'Three forms of naturalism', pp. 2-9, 25-27.
Naturalism in Mathematics, II.6.
'Naturalism and the a priori', pp. 108-111.
('Ontological commitment: beyond Quine and Duhem'.)
- Azzouni, 'On "On what there is"'.
Yablo, 'Does ontology rest on a mistake?'.
Maddy, 'Metaphysics naturalized'.

7. Epistemology naturalized

- Quine, 'Epistemology naturalized'.
Pursuit of Truth, pp. 19-21.
(Maddy, *Naturalism in Mathematics*, pp. 178-181.)
(Sosa, 'Philosophical skepticism and epistemic circularity')
Stroud, 'Skepticism, "externalism", and the goal of
epistemology'.

(One prominent version of naturalized epistemology is reliabilism: a belief is justified if it is generated by a reliable process. This position is also externalist, as the reliable process may be one, say a perceptual process, that the knower is unaware of. Stroud argues that externalism can't answer the traditional epistemological question.)

- Quine, *Roots of Reference*, pp. 1-4.
'The nature of natural knowledge'.
Stroud, *The Significance of Philosophical Skepticism*, chapter VI.
Quine, 'Reply to Stroud'.
Maddy, 'Second Philosophy', pp. 26-31.
(Fogelin, 'Quine's limited naturalism'.)

8. Peirce

- Peirce, 'Fixation of belief'.
'How to make our ideas clear'.
('Some consequences of four incapacities'.)
- Barrett, 'Toward a pragmatic account of scientific knowledge',
sections II-IV.

9. Putnam vs. Putnam

- Putnam, 'Philosophy of logic', pp. 347-356.
'Why there isn't a ready-made world'.

'Why reason can't be naturalized'.
Maddy, 'Naturalism: friends and foes', pp. 50-61.
Barrett, 'Toward a pragmatic account of scientific knowledge', section V.

10. van Fraassen and Fine

van Fraassen, *The Scientific Image*, chapters 2 and 4.
Fine, *The Shaky Game*, pp. 142-147.
Maddy, 'Friends and foes', pp. 43-46.
Maddy, 'Second philosophy', pp. 31-41.

Fine, *The Shaky Game*, chapters 7 and the rest of chapter 8.
Fine, 'Afterward' to second edition of *The Shaky Game*, pp. 173-188.
(Fine, 'Unnatural attitudes: realist and instrumentalist attachments to science'.)
(Fine, 'Science made up: constructivist sociology of scientific knowledge'.)
Maddy, 'Naturalism: friends and foes', pp. 46-50, 62-63.

11. Naturalizing scientific methodology

Kitcher, 'The naturalist's return'.
Laudan, 'Normative naturalism'.
('Progress or rationality'.)
Worrall, 'Two cheers for naturalised philosophy of science'.

12. Stanford's naturalistic instrumentalism

Stanford, 'Duhem's worry'.
(Salmon, 'The common cause principle and molecular reality', *Scientific Explanation and the Causal Structure of the World*, pp. 213-227.)
Achenstein, 'Is there a valid empirical argument for scientific realism?'.
Maddy, *Naturalism*, pp. 135-143.

(We'll be asking, does Stanford give the naturalist a reason to abstain from belief in atoms?)

13. Sklar on philosophy in science

Sklar, *Theory and Truth*, chapter 2.
Maddy, *Naturalism in Mathematics*, pp. 188-190.
Halliday and Resnick, *Fundamentals of Physics*, 952-958.
(Malament, *Geometry and Spacetime*, available from his course web site: <http://hypatia.ss.uci.edu/lps/home/fac-staff/faculty/malament/geometr spacetime.html>.)

(We'll be asking, does Sklar make his case against naturalism?)

14. The problem of induction

Norton, 'A material theory of induction'.

(We'll be asking what the Second Philosopher should say in response to questions like 'why think the future will be like the past?' or 'why think tomorrow's emeralds will be green rather than grue?')

15. Kitcher's real realism

Kitcher, 'Real realism: the Galilean strategy'.

(Kitcher, 'On the explanatory role of correspondence truth'.)

References

Papers and excerpts will be available for photocopying in the mail slot outside my office. The main books will be on reserve in the library. Some of these books would make good additions to your personal philosophical library.

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- [2002] 'Is there a valid empirical argument for scientific realism?', *Journal of Philosophy* 96, pp. 470-495.

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- [1998] 'On "On what there is"', *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 79, pp. 1-18.

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- [TPASK] 'Toward a pragmatic account of scientific knowledge', forthcoming.

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- [200?] 'Hume's naturalism about cognitive norms', to appear in *Philosophical Topics*.

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- [1986b] 'Unnatural attitudes: realist and instrumentalist attachments to science', *Mind* 95, pp. 149-179.
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Halliday, David, and Resnick, Robert

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[1748] *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

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[1992] 'The naturalists return', *Philosophical Review* 101, pp. 53-114.

[2001] 'Real realism: the Galilean strategy', *Philosophical Review* 110, pp. 151-197.

[2002] 'On the explanatory role of correspondence truth', *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 64, pp. 346-364.

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Laudan, Larry

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[1990] 'Normative naturalism', *Philosophy of Science* 57, pp. 44-59.

Livingston, Paul, and Barrett, Jeffrey

[PPTB] 'Pure pragmatics and the transcendence of belief', unpublished ms.

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- [TF] 'Three forms of naturalism', to appear in S. Shapiro, ed., *Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic*.
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- [G&ST] *Geometry and Spacetime*,
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