

SYLLABUS — Problems of the self

Instructor: Dr. Cristina Borgoni

Language of instruction: English

Time: Tuesdays, 11:45-13:15

Office hours: by appointment, Office 513

Place: UR09.53

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Course Summary

This course covers some interrelated topics about the self such as self-reference and self-knowledge. Examples of the questions to be discussed in the course are the following: what is the epistemic warrant of self-ascribed beliefs? What is the reference, if any, of the first-person pronoun 'I'? Can the subject be mistaken about whether she is talking of herself when she says "I intend to study philosophy?" The course will also deal with the recent discussion in analytic philosophy about you-thoughts. The course's literature includes contemporary readings in philosophy of language, epistemology and metaphysics.

Level of Difficult

This course is meant to be an advanced course in philosophy. All readings are written by and for professional philosophers. Readings require background knowledge. Recommended previous courses: Introduction to Philosophy and Philosophy of Language or Philosophy of Mind.

Assessment

Your grades will be calculated as follows:

1. Attendance and participation: no points

You are not allowed to miss more than 3 classes. If you do, you will be automatically deregistered from the course.

2. Presentation: 20%

You will be assigned to present one paper. Your presentation should take between 10 and 15 minutes. Present the main question of the paper, the main theses and the main arguments. A handout is highly recommended.

3. First version of final essay (around 2000 words): 30%

The guidelines will be given later in the course.

4. Final version final essay (around 2000 words): 50%

The guidelines will be given later in the course.

Assigned readings

I. The self and I-thoughts (4 meetings)

- Anscombe, G. "First Person".
- Shoemaker, S. 1968, "Self-Reference and Self-Awareness" *The Journal of Philosophy* 1968.
- Evans, G. 1982, *Varieties of Reference*, chapter 7, focus on pp. 205-233.
- Perry, "Thought without representation".

Optional readings:

- Perry, 1979, "The Problem of the Essential Indexical", *Nous* 13, pp. 3-21.
- Colliva, A. 2006, Error through Misidentification: some varieties, *Journal of Philosophy*

II. The other and You-thoughts (4 meetings)

- Hart and Fegley, "Social Imitation and the Emergence of a Mental Model of Self" (1994) in *Self-Awareness in Animals and Humans*, Parker, Mitchell, Boccia eds.
- Eilan, N. *Forthcoming*, "Joint Attention and the second person".
- Peacocke, C. 2014, "Interpersonal Self-consciousness", *Philosophical Studies*.
- Heal, J. 2014, "Second Person Thought" Philosophical explorations.

Further readings:

- Davidson, D. 1992, "The Second Person".
- Langworth, G. 2013, "Sharing thoughts about oneself", and 2014, "You and me".
- Heck, R. 2002, "Do Demonstratives Have Senses?"
- Eilan, N. 2014, "The You Turn".

III. Self-knowledge (4 meetings)

- Moran, R. 2001. *Authority and Estrangement*, Chapter 4
- Burge, T. 2011. "Self and Self-understanding", lecture 1
- Burge, T. 2011. "Self and Self-understanding", lecture 2
- Burge, T. 2011. "Self and Self-understanding", lecture 3

Further readings:

- Gertler, B. 2011, *Self-Knowledge*, Chapter 1
- Burge, T. 1998, "Reason and the First Person"

Course Material

You can find the course material online on moodle: <http://moodle.uni-graz.at>

Last, but not least: Plagiarism

Don't plagiarize. It's that simple. Plagiarism is an infringement of intellectual copyright and a serious offence, and is not taken lightly by the university. It is easy to avoid it: whenever you help yourself to the ideas of others, make their authorship explicit by referencing them. In addition, use quotation marks ('...') when you cite them word for word. When in doubt, always reference the source you're using: better a reference too many than too few.