This course offers an advanced survey of some central themes in contemporary theoretical philosophy, drawn from recent work in metaphysics, epistemology, and the philosophies of language, mind and science. While it is designed to provide background for those who pursue graduate-level research in these areas, it is not an introductory course. (Those who do not have some undergraduate preparation in these areas are advised to discuss remedial work with the course directors as soon as possible.)

Requirements and Evaluation
Everyone is required to complete the required readings, essays, and to participate in seminar discussions. Evaluation is on the following basis:

Phil 5800:
Weekly Comments and Class Participation: 20%
Four short essays: 80%

Phil 4800:
Weekly Comments and Class Participation: 20%
One short essay: 20%
One term paper: 60%

Comments and Participation (20%)
Before noon of the Thursday preceding each class, you must each post a comment to the class WebCT page on any one claim or argument drawn from that week’s required readings. Your comment may consist of a brief observation or criticism—something that interests you, puzzles you, or seems incorrect to you—but it may be no longer than 325 words. Your comments will form the basis of our weekly discussions and will be assessed for your class participation grade, provided that you are present in the seminar on the relevant day. You may without penalty take two ‘passes’ and post no comment for that week.
First Short Essay (20%)
Due 8 February 11:30 a.m. Write a brief essay, not to exceed 2000 words, in answer to a question on January 18:

Phil 5800 Short Essays (20% x 3)
In addition to the compulsory short essay, Phil 5800 students must write three additional short essays on any three of the remaining 11 weekly topics. At least one of these must be completed by 8 March, 11:30 a.m., and all three must be completed 7 April, 3:00 p.m. As with the first essay, these essays are not to exceed 2000 words, and should include a word count at the end.

Phil 4800 Term Paper (60%)
Due 7 April 3:00 p.m. This essay may be on any topic within the purview of the course, subject to our approval in advance, not to exceed 8,000 words in length. (We will also offer some suggestions for possible topics.) It will include as a graded component of 10% a bibliographic note to be submitted by 15 March, 11:30 am. Further details about papers and bibliographic notes will be posted on the course website.

Late Penalties:
Weekly comments are not accepted late. Other work may be accepted at the discretion of the Course Directors and subject to a penalty of 2.5% (one quarter grade-point) per calendar day or fraction thereof.

A NOTE FOR THOSE OF YOU IN 5801 (CORE THEORETICAL PHILOSOPHY II)

Phil 5801, taken in conjunction with Core Theoretical I, provides a forum for further discussion of central themes in contemporary theoretical philosophy. It is designed to prepare students to write the comprehensive examination in practical philosophy. It covers the same topics as Core theoretical Philosophy I, with additional readings, discussions, and colloquia to broaden one’s grasp of the field.

Students in 5801 are required to complete all required and recommended readings on the attached bibliography, to attend the discussion seminars, and attend the Philosophy Colloquia (a schedule for this semester’s colloquia should be available in the next week or two).

Evaluation will be based on a written comprehensive final examination in theoretical Philosophy, which may range over any of the twelve topics covered in this course. At the discretion of the course directors, you may also be asked to defend your written examination orally.
PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Required readings are to be discussed in class, the others are provided to give you a sense of the field, and for some leads in writing your short essays and term papers. (Those co-registered in Phil 5801 will also be required to read the other items in preparation for the comprehensive examination.)

The best general reference is the Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy (available online through the York library site); also good, though still incomplete, is Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (online at http://plato.stanford.edu). The most reliable short dictionary is Simon Blackburn, Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy.

January

4 Introduction (JH & MAK)

11 Holism: Semantic and Epistemic (JH) (Phil Lang, Phil Sci)


18 Theories of Intentionality (MAK) (Phil Lang, Phil Mind)


Recommended: Fodor, Concepts, Chapter 1; Millikan, “Biosemantics”

25 Incommensurability (JH & MAK) (Phil Lang, Phil Sci)

Required: Kuhn, “Philosophy of Science or Psychology of Research?”; Popper, “Normal Science and its Dangers”; Kuhn, T.S. excerpt from “Replies to Critics” in Lakatos and Musgrave, Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge.


February
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Authors and Works</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Natural Kinds (MAK)</td>
<td>(Metaphysics, Phil Sci)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>The Mind-Body Problem (JH)</td>
<td>(Phil Mind)</td>
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<td>Recommended: Churchland, “Eliminative Materialism,” in <em>Matter and Consciousness</em>.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>READING WEEK</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Physicalism/Reductionism (MAK)</td>
<td>(Phil Mind, Metaphysics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Concepts and Innateness (MAK)</td>
<td>(Phil Mind)</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Realism and Knowledge (JH)</td>
<td>(Metaphysics, Epistemology)</td>
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Recommended: Putnam, “Realism with a Human Face” and “A Defense of Internal Realism” in *Realism with a Human Face*.

14 **Foundationalism/Coherentism/Contextualism (JH)  (Epistemology, Phil Lang)**


Recommended: McFarlane, “The Assessment Sensitivity of Knowledge Attributions” (http://sophos.berkeley.edu/macfarlane/papers.html)

21 **HOLIDAY**

28 **Naturalized Epistemology and Norms of Inference (MAK)  (Epistemology)**


April

4 **Skepticism and Induction (JH)  (Epistemology, Phil Sci)**


Recommended: Stephen Gaukroger, *Francis Bacon and the Transformation of Modern Philosophy*, Ch. 5; J. Hattiangadi, “Investigative Induction.”