

# PHILOSOPHY 4830 - SENIOR SEMINAR

## THE PHILOSOPHY OF PERCEPTION

**Section 001**  
**MWF 10:00–10:50**  
**Hellems 247**

**Professor Michael Tooley**  
**Office Hours: M 12 – 2, W 12 – 1**  
**Hellems, Room 277**

### **Textbooks**

The texts that we shall be using in this course are as follows:

David M. Armstrong, *A Materialist Theory of the Mind* (New York: Humanities Press, 1968)

Michael Huemer, *Skepticism and the Veil of Perception* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2001)

Some topics will require additional readings. Those readings will be available on E-reserve.

Two useful sources of (generally) good overview articles for many of the central topics in this course are the Encyclopedia of Philosophy, edited by Paul Edwards (8 volumes, plus a 1996 Supplement, edited by Donald M. Borchert; call number: B41 .E5), and the Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, edited by Edward Craig (10 volumes; call number: B51 .R68). A copy of the former is available in the Reference room of Norlin Library. Copies of the latter are stored offsite.)

Another useful source, though it is still in a very incomplete state, as many of the articles have not yet been written, is the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, found online at <http://plato.stanford.edu/>

### **Required Work**

1. Since this is a senior seminar, both regular attendance and participation in seminar discussions is important.
2. Because it is a seminar, there will be no final examination.
3. The written work for the course will take the form of two essays, with the option of writing a third essay. If you do two essays, each will count for one-half of your final grade. If you do three essays, your grade will be based upon the best two.

Each essay should be between 1500 and 2000 words in length. The due dates for the essays are as follows:

**First Essay:**                      **Monday, March 10**

**Second Essay:**                    **Monday, April 14**

**Optional Third Essay:**        **Monday, April 28**

A list of possible essay topics is available on the course website. If there is a slightly different topic on which you would like to write an essay, please discuss the topic that you have in mind with me to see whether or not it is suitable.

### **Class Web Site**

Course materials can be found online at the following location:  
<http://spot.colorado.edu/~tooley/Philosophy4830.html>.

## **TOPICS AND READINGS**

### **I. Introduction: The Nature of Philosophy**

### **II. Perception: A Brief Overview**

Michael Huemer, "Introduction: The Problem of Perceptual Knowledge", chapter I of *Skepticism and the Veil of Perception*, pp. 1-5.

### **III. Skepticism**

Michael Huemer, "The Lure of Radical Skepticism", chapter II of *Skepticism and the Veil of Perception*, pp. 7-25.

Michael Huemer, "Easy Answers to Skepticism", chapter III of *Skepticism and the Veil of Perception*, pp. 27-49.

### **IV. David Armstrong's Version of Direct Realism**

#### **1. David M. Armstrong on Knowledge and Inference**

David M. Armstrong, "Knowledge and Inference", chapter 9 of *A Materialist Theory of the Mind*, pp. 187-207.

#### **2. David M. Armstrong's Account of Perception and Sensory Illusion in *Perception and the Physical World***

David Armstrong, "The Analysis of Sensory Illusion", chapter 7 of *Perception and the Physical World*, pp. 80-98. (E-reserve)

David Armstrong, "The Nature of Perception", chapter 9 of *Perception and the Physical World*, pp. 105-22. (E-reserve)

### **3. David Armstrong on Perception and Belief**

David M. Armstrong, "Perception and Belief", chapter 10 of *A Materialist Theory of the Mind*, pp. 208-244.

### **4. David Armstrong on Perception and Behavior**

David M. Armstrong, "Perception and Behavior", chapter 11 of *A Materialist Theory of the Mind*, pp. 245-269.

### **5. David Armstrong on the Secondary Qualities**

David M. Armstrong, "The Secondary Qualities", chapter 12 of *A Materialist Theory of the Mind*, pp. 270-290.

## **V. Michael Huemer on Direct Realism Versus Indirect Realism**

### **1. Michael Huemer's Version of Direct Realism**

Michael Huemer, "A Version of Direct Realism", chapter IV of *Skepticism and the Veil of Perception*, pp. 51-92.

### **2. Michael Huemer's Version of Foundationalism**

Michael Huemer, "A Version of Foundationalism", chapter V of *Skepticism and the Veil of Perception*, pp. 93-117.

### **3. Michael Huemer on Objections to Direct Realism**

Michael Huemer, "Objections to Direct Realism", chapter VI of *Skepticism and the Veil of Perception*, pp. 119-147.

### **4. Michael Huemer on an Objection to Indirect Realism**

Michael Huemer, "An Objection to Indirect Realism: The Problem of Spatial Properties", chapter VII of *Skepticism and the Veil of Perception*, pp. 149-174.

### **5. Michael Huemer on Skepticism and Direct Realism**

Michael Huemer, "The Direct Realist's Answer to Skepticism", chapter VIII of *Skepticism and the Veil of Perception*, pp. 175-196.

## **VI. Frank Jackson and the Existence of Sense-Data**

Frank Jackson, "The Case for Sense Data", chapter 4 of *Perception: A Representative Theory*, pp. 88-119. (E-reserve)

Frank Jackson, "Color and Science", chapter 5 of *Perception: A Representative Theory*, pp. 120-137. (E-reserve)

## **VII. Indirect Realism and the Problem of Skepticism**

Michael Tooley, "A Refutation of Physical-World Skepticism?"

## **Statements Concerning Various Matters**

The University currently recommends the inclusion in all syllabi of statements dealing with the following matters:

### **(1) Students with Disabilities**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

### **(2) Religious Observances Policy Statement**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, students who are absent from a class due to a religious observance should talk to me about the material that I covered in that class. If a religious observance conflicts with the date of the final examination, please inform me of this in writing as early as possible, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

### **(3) Classroom Behavior Policy Statement**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code).

### **(4) Statement concerning Sexual Harassment and Amorous Relationships**

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

##### **(5) Statement concerning the Boulder Campus Honor Code**

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>