

# EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

PHILOSOPHY 5700

SPRING 2014

**Course Description:** Philosophy has traditionally taken place from the armchair; experimental philosophy portends a philosophical revolution wherein the methodologies for doing philosophy are expanded from armchair reflection to include broader engagement. As philosophers' intuitions are thrown into conflict with those of more diverse populations, what should be the status of received philosophical wisdom? Do philosophers' intuitions occupy some sort of privileged status? Can "folk" intuitions be informative in the construction of our philosophical theories, or can experimental results only undermine traditional work? What do cross-cultural differences tell us about the epistemic status of our intuitions? What is the relationship between experimental philosophy and empirical approaches to philosophy more generally? In this seminar, we will explore these and other questions.

**Professor:** Dr. Fritz Allhoff  
3006 Moore Hall, by appointment  
387-4503 (w)

**Seminar:** February 14, 230-450  
February 21, 430-650  
March 14, 400-620  
March 21, 230-450  
March 28, 230-450

**Texts:** Fritz Allhoff, Ron Mallon, and Shaun Nichols, *Philosophy: Traditional and Experimental Readings* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).  
Other readings as posted to Dropbox.

<b>Grading:</b>	Reaction papers	34%
	Attendance/participation	33%
	Presentations	33%

**Reaction Papers:** Before each seminar, you must submit a 1000-word reaction paper to the assigned readings (half exegetical, half critical); it is due in my mailbox by noon of the day we meet.

**Attendance/Participation:** You are required to attend each seminar and to participate. If you miss a seminar, you may turn in a 2,000-word reaction paper within 48 hours of the seminar's start time; this is in lieu of the 1,000-word reaction paper you would have otherwise submitted. You may do this, at most, once.

**Presentations:** Each student will do one presentation through the first four meetings and one presentation on the last meeting. For the first presentation, make sure not to recite the reading back to us, but use the reading as the focus of a broader discussion. That said, if there are important experimental results in it, we should go over them together. Chase down critical replies, further research, and so on. For the second presentation, each student will have 15 minutes to identify some other topic or paper on which experimental philosophy has made—or stands to make—an impact. As people will not have read this work in advance, you can tailor your presentation more closely to whatever work you are specifically engaging.

### SEMINAR AND READING SCHEDULE

<b>1</b>	2/14	Philosophical Methodology	Allhoff et al., §10.1, §10.3  Joshua Knobe, “Intentional Action and Side-Effects in Ordinary Language”  Joshua Knobe and Shaun Nichols, “An Experimental Philosophy Manifesto”  Epistemology	Allhoff et al., §2.5, §2.7	
<b>2</b>	2/28	Expertise	Timothy Williamson, “Philosophical Expertise and the Burden of Proof”  Eric Schwitzgebel and Fiery Cushman, “Expertise in Moral Reasoning? Order Effects on Moral Judgment in Professional Philosophers and Non-Philosophers”	Research Methodology	Simon Cullen, “Survey-Driven Romanticism”
<b>3</b>	3/14	Free Will & Moral Responsibility	Allhoff et al., §§6.1-6.7		
<b>4</b>	3/21	Ethics	Fritz Allhoff, “The Evolution of the Moral Sentiments and the Metaphysics of Morals”  Allhoff et al., § 9.4  Joshua Greene, “The Secret Joke of Kant’s Soul”		
<b>5</b>	3/28	Student Presentations	N/A		