

Philosophy 355: Contemporary Philosophy  
Fall 2008  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am - 10:15am

Hamilton College  
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## **Presentation Assignment**

### **Presentations**

Each student will do two presentations of articles from the syllabus. I encourage you to choose one article from Part I of the class, and another from either Part II or Part III.

During your presentation, you should focus on the central claims of reading, or portion of the reading. To what arguments is the author responding? Why does she or he find other positions unacceptable? How does the author's position differ from other positions we have discussed? How does the author argue for his or her position? Be clear. You need not present critical material, though it is welcome.

One important goal of your presentation is to generate class discussion. You might generate discussion by presenting a controversial position. You might ask interesting questions. You may be creative about how to interact with the class. You may read from notes. You may do a PowerPoint presentation. You may prepare a handout, or a short paper that students could read in advance. During the class, you may have us sit in rows, or in a circle. If you want to do something more inventive, like have us break into groups to prepare a debate, I would be happy to help you think out the plan.

Some articles will be divided among two or three students. Some classes will have more than one presentation. In such cases, I encourage you to coordinate your efforts, both to avoid stepping on each other's toes, and to design a more interesting class.

### **Presentation Resources:**

Please feel free to meet with me before your presentations.

Many students find the oral communications lab, located in KJ 152, helpful. They have a wealth of resources readily available, and are eager to help. The staff at the lab can assist you both with the content of your presentation, and with determining how best to present your material. When you have prepared a draft of your presentation, they can record you while you practice giving the presentation. You can watch the recording with a tutor, or by yourself. You can sign up for an appointment with a tutor on the door of the lab, or you can email them at: [oralcomm@hamilton.edu](mailto:oralcomm@hamilton.edu). Their website offers valuable resources:

<http://www.hamilton.edu/academics/department.html?dept=Oral%20Communication>

## **Presentation Possibilities**

The following are the available topics for presentations, with dates and the number of slots for each topic.

### **Part I: Consciousness and Neuroscience**

- Reductionism and the Identity Theory (9/4) (1)
- Functionalism and Multiple Realizability (9/9) (2)
- Troubles with Functionalism (9/11) (2)
- Qualia I (9/16) (1)
- Qualia II (9/18) (2)
- Against Qualia (9/23) (2)
- Eliminativism and Folk Psychology (9/25) (2)
- The Hard Problem (9/30) (1)
- Neuroscience (10/2) (1)
- Inattention Blindness/Blind Sight (10/7) (2)

### **Part II: Laws of Nature and Their Governance**

- Intuition and Reflective Equilibrium (10/28) (2)
- Modalities (10/30) (2)
- Laws and the D-N model (11/4) (2)
- MRL (11/6) (2)
- Why Be a Humean? (11/11) (2)
- Carroll and the Mirror (11/13) (2)
- Governance I (11/18) (2)
- Governance II (11/20) (2)

### **Part III: Logic Puzzles**

- Knights and Knaves (12/9) (3)
- The Hardest Logic Puzzle Ever (12/11) (1)