Ryerson University
Department of Philosophy

Area Readings
Philosophy of Modality (Summer 2017)

Contact Information:	

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Course Description:

This Area Reading Exam will consider many central issues in the philosophy of modality. One particular focus will be on modelling the dynamics of discourse using possible worlds.

Evaluation Scheme:

Grades will normally be determined in the following manner:

Task	Due Date and Submission Information
Short Response Papers 1 page (250 word) reading summary per reading. (@ 18 pages total)	Summaries of section 1 are due by June 20. Summaries of section 2 by July 20. Summaries for section 3 by August 5.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Texts: Melia, Joseph. *Modality*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's. 2003
https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pragmatics/

The list of readings below may be revised as the course progresses, depending on our interests and pace.

1. **Historical background about Modality:**
    Goodman, Nelson: *Fact, Fiction and Forecast*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapter 2.
    Humberstone, Lloyd. 1981. From Worlds to Possibilities. *Journal of Philosophical Logic*. 10(3): 313-339

Lewis, David. 'Possible Worlds'. In Michael Loux (ed.). *The Possible and the Actual*, Ithaca: Cornell, 1979.

Lewis, David. *On the Plurality of Worlds*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1986. Chapter 2.

Plantinga, Alvin. 'On Existentialism.' *Philosophical Studies*, 44, 1983, 1-20.

Quine, W.V.O. Three Grades of Modal Involvement. *The Ways of Paradox and Other Essays*.

Stalnaker, Robert. Possible Worlds. In Michael Loux (ed.). *The Possible and the Actual*, Ithaca: Cornell, 1979.

2. <u>Modeling discourse</u>

Grice, H. Paul, 1989, *Studies in the Way of Words*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, Chapter 2.

Kripke, Saul, 2009, "Presupposition and anaphora: Remarks on the formulation of the projection problem", *Linguistic Inquiry*, 40: 367–386.

Lewis, David. 1979. Scorekeeping in a Language Game. *Journal of Philosophical Logic*. 8(1), 339-359. Reprinted in Lewis *Collected Papers*, Oxford University Press.

Stalnaker, Robert. 1978. Assertion. In Peter Cole, editor, *Syntax and Semantics 9: Pragmatics*. Reprinted in Stalnaker's *Context and Content*, Oxford University Press.

Stalnaker, Robert. 1974. Pragmatic Presupposition. In his *Context and Content*.

3. **<u>Recent work</u>**

Elga, Adam, and Rayo, Agustin. Ms. Fragmented decision theory. (I have it.)

Greco, Daniel. 2014/5. Iteration and Fragmentation. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* XCI(3)

Perez Carballo, Alejandro. 2014. Structuring Logical Space. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.

Rayo, Agustin. 2013. *The Construction of Logical Space*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 1.

Yalcin, Seth. 2007. Epistemic Modals. *Mind,* 116(464), 983-1026.

Yalcin, Seth. Belief as Question-sensitive. 2016. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. Doi: 10.1111/phpr.12330

Summaries: the goal of an article summary is to prove to me that you have mastered the material presented in it. These are graded Pass/Fail. You must receive a Pass on each of them in order to pass the course.

<u>Failure to submit all the written work by the due date without a legitimate excuse will result in an automatic grade of FAIL.</u>