

Syllabus One: Fiction and Fictionalism (Taught Fall 2014 at U Penn)

A course for 4th years who are majoring in Philosophy, M.A. students, and PhD students. ('Canvas' is our online learning tool). Although the course runs for 16 weeks, there are 14 weeks worth of content due to some days off during some of the weeks.

There are fictionalist accounts of morality, possible worlds, mathematical objects, and even truth. In this course we will examine these accounts and the metaphysical repercussions that the fictionalist strategy commits us to. We will be covering various cases studies of fictionalism, and assessing the validity of such accounts.

LOGISTICS

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1.30-3.00

Place: Room 403, Claudia Cohen Hall

Professor: Katie Monk

Contact: mail [AT] katiemonk.net

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-4

Deadlines: Final papers due 11th Dec

ASSESSMENT

Class Participation

10% of final grade

There will be questions (written by a fellow student) to think about posted on Canvas before each class. They will appear under 'Discussions'. Please take a look at these questions in advance of the class and have a think about your responses to these. You do not need to write your answers down unless it helps you. There will be no questions for the first week, but please do the reading as set in the schedule before the class.

A requirement to pass the class participation section is to do five presentations. For the class you are assigned to present for you will be required to submit three questions which you think are of interest, to do with the paper we are reading for that class. You must post these questions in advance on Canvas, and all students are required to take a look at these questions and think about them before the class.

In addition to posting these three questions you should prepare a presentation, lasting around 10 to 20 minutes. In this you should summarize the views in the paper and also present any objections or commentary of your own. You should finish by introducing the questions you posted in advance, which you can relate to your presentation if you wish.

Research Paper

90% of final grade

You will write a longer paper of around 7,000 words.

You may write on any topic we cover during the course. You should agree your topic/title with me in advance.

If you have a medical or personal issue that is interfering with your ability to work, please let me know. In particular, if you think that you may miss a deadline, please let

me know – ideally in advance. Papers that are late without me granting an extension will be downgraded half a letter grade per day.

COURSE MATERIALS

We will be using two core texts:

R.M. Sainsbury, *Fiction and Fictionalism*, Routledge, 2010

Mark Kalderon (ed), *Fictionalism in Metaphysics*, OUP, 2005

In addition

Saul Kripke, *Reference and Existence*, OUP, 2013

Provides key background.

Journal entries that are not in these books will be posted to Canvas.

Section One: Foundational Issues

Week One - Introduction

- Frederick Kroon *Fictionalism in Metaphysics*,

Week Two - What is Fiction?

- Sainsbury, Chap 1
- Stacie Friend, *Fiction as a Genre*,

Week Three - Motivations

- Quine, *On What There Is*,
- J. Melia, *On What There's Not*,

Section Two: Case Studies

Week Four - Modal Fictionalism

- Gideon Rosen, *Modal Fictionalism*,
- Seahwa Kim, *Modal Fictionalism and Analysis*, in Kalderon

Week Five - Moral Fictionalism

- Richard Joyce, *Moral Fictionalism in Kalderon*
- Sainsbury, Chap 9

Week Six - Mathematical Fictionalism

- Stephen Yablo, *Myth of the Seven in Kalderon*
- Mark Balaguer, *Fictionalism, Theft, and the Story of Mathematics*

Week Seven - Fictionalism about Truth

- James Woodbridge, *Truth as Pretense in Kalderon*

Section Three: Metaphysical Issues - Realism

Week Eight

- Stacie Friend, *Fictional Characters*,
- Sainsbury Chap 2

Week Nine

- Terrance Parsons, *Are There Nonexistent Objects?*
- Sainsbury, Chap 3

Week Ten

- David Lewis, Truth in Fiction
- Sainsbury Chap 4

Week Eleven

- Amie Thomasson, Speaking of Fictional Characters,
- Sainsbury, Chap 5

Section Three: Metaphysical Issues - Anti Realism

Week Twelve

- Stuart Brock, Fictionalism about fictional characters,
- Sainsbury, Chap 6

Week Thirteen

- Kendall Walton, Metaphor and Prop Oriented Make-Believe in Kalderon
- Catherine Wearing, Metaphor Idiom and Pretense

Week Fourteen

- Anthony Everett, Against Fictional Realism

Week Fifteen

- Anna Pautz, Fictional Co Reference as a Problem for the Pretense Theory,
- Stacie Friend, Notions of Nothing

Summary

Week Sixteen

- Sainsbury Chap 10