

Critical Reflections on Kripkean Themes

Hanoch Ben-Yami

2019–20 Winter Term

No. of Credits: 2. No. of ECTS credits: 4.

Time Period of the Course: one semester.

Course Level: MA.

Description

Brief introduction to the course: Kripke's views on modality, naming, natural kinds, identity and more have shaped much of analytic philosophy of the last half century. We shall critically discuss these ideas, closely reading *Naming and Necessity* and other works by Kripke. We shall provide reasons for rejecting many of the central Kripkean claims.

Course requirements

- attendance
- participation in discussions
- term paper

Course Goals

Students will become familiar with some central, highly influential ideas of Kripke's and their critical assessment.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will have crucially reflected on some central issues in contemporary analytic philosophy.

Week by week breakdown

1. Introduction
2. Rigidity
3. The contingent a priori, Wittgenstein on the standard metre
4. The contingency of origin
5. The logical contingency of identity
6. On naming, criticism of Kripke's baptism-cum-chain and of his 'ignorance and error' argument (two classes)
7. Criticism of Kripke on kind terms and on the necessary a posteriori
8. The possible existence of fictional characters, fictional character names
9. Speaker's reference and semantic reference
10. The Liar Phenomena
11. Revision

Assessment

Term paper of approximately 2500 words (students should consult me about the paper's subject).

Participation in class can contribute up to plus one grade (from B to B+ etc) to the final grade.