I. DESCRIPTION

We study Wilfrid Sellars’s famous attack on the Myth of the Given and followed by the appropriations of his Hegelian-spirited project by the "Pittsburgh school," i.e., Robert Brandom and John McDowell. The course focuses on the inferentialism of Brandom and McDowell's neo-empiricism. We examine the central texts of these philosophers, their public debates, as well as their reception by other contemporary philosophers, such as Richard Rorty, Hilary Putnam, and Hubert Dreyfus.

This course introduces students to pioneering contemporary discussions that challenge the modern conceptions of philosophical activity and provide opportunities for innovative response to central metaphysical and epistemological problems. It also engages important recent Analytic philosophers and their appropriation of and alignment with the contributions of seminal continental philosophers.

II. REQUIRED TEXTS

Wilfrid Sellars, Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind (Harvard, 1997).

-Other readings essential for the course are available on iLearn (http://ilearn.sfsu.edu) as .pdf files. Please print these out and bring to class.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance and active participation are required and count for 20% of the grade. The remainder of the grade will be determined by a 15-20 page term paper (50%) and one class presentation (30%). Each presenter will submit a 3-5 page paper on the topic presented at least 48 hours before the presentation, otherwise the student will not be permitted to present and will not get any credit for the presentation.
IV. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Academic accommodation is available for students with disabilities. Please see the DISABILITY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCE CENTER (HTTP://WWW.SFSU.EDU/~DPRC) in the Student Services Building 110 and talk to the instructor as soon as possible to discuss any accommodation that you may need for the course.

V. PLAGIARISM

All work submitted for the course must be your own. Plagiarism will result in disciplinary action. For more details see: http://www.sfsu.edu/~collhum/plagiarism.html

VI. SCHEDULE: This schedule is subject to revision. Major changes will be discussed with the students.

1. Jan. 31: Introduction
   -Rorty, Introduction to “Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind.”

2. Feb. 7: Sellars on the Myth of the Given and Kant
   -Brandom’s Study Guide, pp. 119-162.
   -Suggested Readings:
     -Sellars, “Sensibility and Understanding.”

3. Feb. 14: Sellars and Brandom on the Myth of Jones and Sense Impressions

4. Feb. 21: McDowell on Sellars, Sense Impressions and Intentionality
   -McDowell: “Having the World in View: Sellars, Kant, and Intentionality.”

5. Feb. 28: Brandom and McDowell as Analytic Hegelians I
   -Brandom, “Freedom and Constraint by Norms.”
   -Suggested Readings:
     -Rorty, “The World Well Lost.”

6. Mar. 7: Brandom’s Inferentialism I: Constitutive-Pragmatist-Relationally-Linguist-Conceptual-Expressivism
   -Brandom, Articulating Reasons, Introduction (pp. 1-22), Chapters 1 & 2.

7. Mar. 14: Brandom’s Inferentialism II: On Reliabilism and Social Practice
   -Brandom, Articulating Reasons, Chapter 3 & 5.

   -Brandom, Articulating Reasons, Chapter 6.
   -McDowell, Mind and World, Preface and Lectures I-II

March 26, 28: No Class. Spring Recess
9. **Apr. 4: McDowell’s Empiricism II: Non-conceptual Content**
   - McDowell, *Mind and World*, Lectures III, Afterword, Parts I and II
   - Rorty, “McDowell, Davidson, and Spontaneity.”
   - McDowell, “Reply to Rorty.”

10. **Apr. 11: McDowell’s Empiricism III: Reason and Nature**
    - McDowell, *Mind and World*, Lectures IV-VI, Afterword, Parts III and IV.
    - Suggested Reading:

    - Putnam, “McDowell’s Mind and McDowell’s World.”
    - McDowell’s Reply.
    - McDowell, “Avoiding the Myth of the Given.”
    - Suggested Reading:

12. **Apr. 25: Tracking the Debates Between Brandom & McDowell**
    - Brandom: “Perception and Rational Constraint”
    - McDowell’s Reply.
    - McDowell, “Knowledge and the Internal.”
    - Brandom, “Knowledge and the Social Articulation of the Space of Reasons.”

13. **May 2: Brandom and McDowell as Analytic Hegelians II**
    - Brandom, “Some Pragmatist Themes in Hegel’s Idealism.”
    - McDowell: “Comments on Robert Brandom’s ‘Some Pragmatist Themes in Hegel’s Idealism.’”

    - Dreyfus: “Overcoming the Myth of the Mental: How Philosophers Can Profit from the Phenomenology of Ordinary Experience.”
    - McDowell: “What Myth?”
    - Azadpur: “Two Contemporary Approaches to Heidegger’s Phenomenology”

15. **May 16: Myth of the Given and Being-in-the-World II**
    - Dreyfus: “The Return of the Myth of the Mental.”
    - McDowell: “Response to Dreyfus.”
    - Dreyfus: “Response to McDowell.”

**May 24, Noon: Final Paper Due**