

Fall 2005  
Pragmatism  
0122-403-01

Prof. David Stump  
Office CA room D5b  
Hours: W 10-12:30  
& by appointment  
stumpd@usfca.edu

## Syllabus

TEXTS (available at the bookstore)

William James, *Pragmatism* Dover, 1995 ISBN: 0-486-28270-8  
William James, *The Meaning of Truth* Dover ISBN: 0486421406

Other material on reserve at Gleeson Library and available through JSTOR

### COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate an ability to identify and articulate, both orally and in writing, the central philosophical issues found in classic texts in the pragmatism.
- 2) Identify the primary philosophical themes and issues that define the pragmatism.
- 3) Understand and be able to explain at least six basic philosophical problems, including the nature of definitions, the fact/value distinction, the problem of induction, theories of truth, objectivity Vs relativism, idealism Vs realism, the social and political commitments of pragmatists.

### REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at a philosophy colloquium series talk, plus writing an abstract. Three short papers, weekly study questions, a bibliography and prospectus of final project, a summary of an article and leading a class discussion on it, a first and a second draft of a final paper. Each item mentioned above will count 10% of the final grade except for the study questions and the final paper which will count 20% each. Missing or late assignments count as zero (0). Final letter grade will be determined on the basis of total points, not on average letter grades given on the assignments.

### PAPER DUE DATES

Study questions are due each Tuesday and will be announced on the prior Tuesday. Short paper topics will be announced approximately two weeks prior to the due date. The final paper is due Wednesday, 12/14/05 (the day of the scheduled final exam for this course). Papers are to be processed at turnitin.com.

### ATTENDANCE

You are required to attend each class for the full class period and to participate. Attendance at one talk in the Philosophy Department lecture series is also required. If you have more than two unexcused absences during the semester, each unexcused absence will reduce your final grade by two percentage points. It is your responsibility to contact me promptly if you must miss part or all of a class.

### MAKE-UP WORK

Serious illness, a major emergency in the family, and student activities that are official, required and unavoidable are the only reasons that will be accepted for missing class, an examination or turning in papers late. Written documentation may be requested for illness, etc. , and is always required for student activities. Class participation cannot be made up. *A grade of incomplete (I) can be given only if at least 66% of the course work has been completed, even if all absences and missing work were caused by legitimate excuses.*

(over)

## Full Bibliographical Information for Material on Reserve

(numbers in green show order in library list)

- Dewey, John “The Construction of the Good” from *The Quest for Certainty* (1929) as reprinted in *Pragmatism: The Classic Writings* H. S. Thayer, ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1982. [1]
- Dewey, John “The Practical Character of Reality” from *Essays* (1908) as reprinted in *Pragmatism: The Classic Writings* H. S. Thayer, ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1982. [5]
- Horwich, Paul “The Minimal Theory” from *Truth* Oxford : Clarendon Press ; New York : Oxford University Press, 1998 2nd ed [4]
- James, William “The Meaning of the Word True” *American Philosophical Association* (1907) as reprinted in *Pragmatism: The Classic Writings* H. S. Thayer, ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1982. [3]
- James, William “The Tigers in India” *Psychological Review* (1895) as reprinted in *Pragmatism: The Classic Writings* H. S. Thayer, ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1982. [8]
- Moore, G. E. and C. S. Peirce “Truth and Falsity” from *Dictionary of Philosophy and Psychology* J. M. Baldwin, ed. New York, The Macmillan company 1903, 1911. [9]
- Peirce, C. S. “How to Make Our Ideas Clear” *Popular Science Monthly* (1878) as reprinted in *Pragmatism: The Classic Writings* H. S. Thayer, ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1982. [2]
- Peirce, C. S. “The Scientific Attitude and Fallibilism” in *Philosophical Writings of Peirce* Justus Buchler, ed. New York: Dover, 1950. [7]
- Peirce, C. S. “What Pragmatism Is” *The Monist* (1905) as reprinted in *Pragmatism: The Classic Writings* H. S. Thayer, ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1982. [10]
- Russell, Bertrand “Pragmatism” In *Philosophical Essays*. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1910. [6]
- Russell, Bertrand “William James Conception of Truth.” In *Philosophical Essays*. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1910. [11]

## Books on Reserve

- The Pragmatic turn in philosophy: contemporary engagements between analytic and continental thought* edited by William Egginton and Mike Sandbothe Albany : State University of New York Press, c2004
- Animal pragmatism: rethinking human-nonhuman relationships* edited by Erin McKenna and Andrew Light Imprint Bloomington, IN : Indiana University Press, c2004
- Pragmatism and the problem of race* edited by Bill E. Lawson and Donald F. Koch Bloomington, IN : Indiana University Press, c2004