Outline Syllabus for Seminar G9658 on Subjects of Consciousness (Advanced Topics in the Philosophy of Mind)

The Seminar will meet on Fridays 11.00am -12.50pm (location to be announced).

This Seminar is open both to those taking it for credit, and to anyone else who wishes to attend. For those taking it for credit, the requirement will be to write one paper on some topic, approved after discussion with the Instructor, connected with the topics of the Seminar.

Topics to be covered include, but will not necessarily be restricted to, the following, with the background reading specified:

1. Introductory Remarks and Overview

2. Primitive Self-Representation

G. Evans, The Varieties of Reference (Oxford: OUP, 1982), Chapter on Self-Identification


Further Reading:


R. Brandom, Making It Explicit: Reasoning, Representing, and Discursive Commitment (Cambridge MA: Harvard UP, 1994), Chapter 8, section V.2

C. Peacocke, Truly Understood (Oxford: OUP, 2008), Chapter 3


3. A Positive Conception of Subjects


T. Nagel, 'What is it like to be a bat?', *Philosophical Review* 83 (1974) 435-50


L. Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* 5.632-5.641

4. Comparisons: Contemporary Differences, Historical Affinities


J. Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* Book II Chapter XXVII


5. The First Person and its Nonconceptual Parent


6. Can the De Se be Explained in Other Terms?


F. Recanati, contribution to issue ‘Le moi, le soi, the self’, ed. B. Longuenesse, issue 4 (2010) of the *Revue de Métaphysique et de Morale*

F. Recanati, ‘De re and de se’, *dialectica* 63 (2009) 249-269


Further Reading:

7. Descartes Defended


R. Descartes, *Discourse on Method* and *Meditations*, especially Meditation Two and Second Set of Replies


8. Two Paralogisms: A Positive Alternative

I. Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, chapter ‘The Paralogisms of Pure Reason’


Further Reading:


9. Strawson’s Neo-Kantian Conception

Further Reading:


**10. Perspectival Self-Consciousness**


S. Shoemaker, ‘Embodiment and Behavior’, repr. in his *Identity, Cause and Mind*
11. Reflective Self-Consciousness


C. Peacocke, "Relation-Based Thought, Objectivity, and Disagreement" *dialectica* 64 (2010) 35-56


S. Shoemaker, *The First Person Perspective and Other Essays* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), Royce Lectures therein


12. A Response to Gopnik and Theory-Theory Conceptions

A. Gopnik, ‘How we know our minds: The illusion of first-person knowledge of intentionality’ *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 16 (1993) 1-14

13. Interpersonal Self-Consciousness


Further Reading:

