Nonfactual thought and discourse

graduate seminar, Berkeley, Fall 2016
Tuesday 4-6, Dennès

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Office hours: Wed, 4:30-6, 138 Moses Hall

Course abstract

We will examine fragments of thought and talk that seem to fail to be ‘fully factual’ in character.

Prerequisites

To attend this course, you must be a graduate student at Berkeley or have my permission.

Materials

Most, if not all, of the required readings will be posted in PDF format on the course website, which is on bCourses. That includes the readings taken from various books. But if you want to go ahead and buy the relevant books for the course, they are: Gibbard, Thinking How to Live; Bratman, Intentions, Plans, and Practical Reason; Hory, Reasons as Defaults; Nickel, Between Logic and the World; Väyrynen, The Lewd, the Rude, and the Nasty.

Course requirements

If you’re auditing, you need to do the required reading before you show up.

If you’re taking the class for credit, you need to give a class presentation on one of the readings, and write a seminar paper of 15-20 pages. You should email me with your top two or three subjects to present on by September 6. The paper is due Tuesday, December 13.
Subject to change. Updates will appear on bCourses.

0: Aug 30 | Introduction

| Planning |
| What is it to plan? What is it to view something as an option? |

1: Sept 6 | Gibbard, *Thinking How To Live*, chs. 3, 4

Hedden, ‘Options and the Subjective Ought’

3: Sept 20 | Gibbard, *Thinking How To Live*, chs. 5
Silverstein, ‘Inescapability and Normativity’

| Reasons |
| What is it to think that something is a reason for something else? |

4: Sept 27 | Hory, *Reasons as Defaults*, chs. 1, 2

| Normality |
| What is it to view something as normal? |


6: Oct 11 | Yalcin, ‘Modalities of Normality’

7: Oct 18 | (processing)

| Thick normative concepts |
| What is it to think that something is frugal? Sleazy? Elegant? |

8: Oct 25 | Väyrynen, *The Lewd, the Rude, and the Nasty* (selection)

9: Nov 1 | Väyrynen, *The Lewd, the Rude, and the Nasty* (selection)

| Pejoratives and slurs |
| How is derogatory speaking tied up with derogatory thinking? |

10: Nov 8 | Hom, ‘Pejoratives’
Camp, ‘Slurring Perspectives’

| Substantivity and ideology |
| What is it to disagree about which distinctions are substantive or natural? |

11: Nov 15 | Yalcin, ‘Belief as Question-Sensitive’
Holliday, ‘Possibility Semantics: A Brief Introduction’
Sider, *Writing the Book of the World*, ch. 4

| Real distinctions |
| What is disagreement about which distinctions are real? |

12: Nov 22 | Dasgupta, ‘Absolutism vs Comparativism about Quantity’
Lee and Yalcin, ‘Finding Meaning in a Disoriented World’

13: Nov 29 | (processing)