

Phil 200: Proseminar

M 4-7, Department Library Fall 2012. Instructor: Rick Grush

**Topic:** The topic will be Robert Brandom's book *Making It Explicit*. There are several reasons for this selection. First, this is a fantastic book. It is deep and original, and is an excellent model for what real philosophy should be like. Second, the material covered in the book is relevant to an unusually broad range of philosophical interests. It is directly relevant to work in philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, epistemology, metaphysics, history of philosophy, especially early modern, Descartes through Kant and Hegel, and to Frege and beyond, ethics, as it is centrally concerned with the nature of normativity, and even philosophy of science, as it treats the topic of objectivity in some depth.

This combination of features means that any student who really masters this text will thereby have taken their philosophical game to the next level, in terms of both breadth and depth.

**Schedule:** Basically we will be working through the text from beginning to end over the course of the quarter. The book is about 650 pages long, and we'll meet 10 times. Doing the math on that we get *about* 65 pages per week. This is actually a lot of pages to work through carefully.

1. October 1. Chapter 1, up to page 66
2. October 8. Chapter 2, up to page 140
3. October 15. Chapter 3, up to page 198
4. October 22. Chapter 4, up to page 271
5. October 29. Chapter 5, up to page 333
6. November 5. Chapter 6, up to page 412
7. November 12. Chapter 7, up to page 494
8. November 19. Chapter 8, up to page 547
9. November 26. Chapter 8, up to page 613
10. December 3. Chapter 9, up to page 650







