

Pol 518 PHI529 Seminar in Political Philosophy: Social and Political Ontology
Fall 2014
Philip Pettit

The seminar will divide broadly into two parts, one each side of term break. The first part will begin by looking at the realms of mental and social properties and at how they relate, and then turn to two major issues: the ‘individualist’ question as to how far social regularities are autonomous from mental; and the ‘atomist’ issue as to how far the mental regularities that we human beings display — say, in our capacities to conduct reasoning and to make personal commitments — actually presuppose social interaction. The second part of the seminar, after the term break, will begin with a third major issue in social ontology: the ‘singularist’ issue as to how far groups can constitute agents with minds of their own; and then turn to the questions, applicable with private and public bodies, of how far corporate entities should enjoy responsibilities and rights of their own.

I add a list of some basic readings for each session below; these may be revised somewhat and further references will be provided in each session. Most of the basic readings will be made available a week in advance of each session on Blackboard.

Tuesday 16 September 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 1: Individual intentionality

Background reading: List and Pettit *Group Agency*, Ch 1

Tuesday 23 September 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 2: Social conventions and institutions

Background reading: Hart *Concept of Law*, Ch 5

David Lewis *Convention*, Ch 1

Searle ‘Social Ontology: the Basic Principles’

Tuesday 30 September 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 3: The Individualism Issue I

Background reading: List and Spiekerman ‘Methodological Individualism and Holism’

Jackson and Pettit ‘Structural Explanation in Social Theory’

Tuesday 7 October 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 4: The Individualism Issue II

Background reading: Emile Durkheim *Rules of Sociological Method*, Ch 1;

Ian Hacking *The Taming of Chance*, cc 13-15, c 20.

P.F.Strawson ‘Freedom and Resentment’

Tuesday 14 October 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 5: The Atomism Issue I

Background reading: Hobbes *Leviathan* Ch’s 4 and 16

Pettit ‘Defining and Defending Social Holism’;

Pippin ‘Recognition and Reconciliation’

Tuesday 21 October 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 6: The Atomism Issue II

Background reading: Saul Kripke 'The Wittgensteinian Paradox'.

MID-TERM BREAK

Tuesday 4 November 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 7: The Singularism Issue I

Background reading: Bratman 'Modest Sociality'

Shapiro *Legality* Ch 5

Tomasello et al 'Collaborative Partner or Social Tool'

Tuesday 11 November 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 8: The Singularism Issue II

Background reading: Kornhauser and Sagar 'The One and the Many'

List and Pettit *Group Agency* Ch 2

Tuesday 18 November 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 9: The Corporate Agent

Background reading: List and Pettit *Group Agency* Ch 3

Ciepley 'Towards a Political Theory of the Corporation'

Pettit 'Group Agents are not Expressive, Pragmatic or Theoretical Fictions'

Tuesday 25 November 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 10: The Corporate State

Background reading: Skinner 'A Genealogy of the Modern State'

Pettit *Made with Words* Ch 5

Pettit *On the People's Terms* Ch 5, selection

Tuesday 2 December 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 11: Corporate Responsibilities

Background reading: Feinberg 'Collective Responsibility';

French et al 'How Corporations Qualify for ... Moral Community';

List and Pettit *Group Agency* Ch 7

Tuesday 9 December 2014 3.30pm-6.20pm 301 Marx Hall

Seminar 12: Corporate Rights

Background reading: May *Group Rights*, Cc 5 and 6.