

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- [www.unine.ch/lettres](http://www.unine.ch/lettres)

### Séminaire BA : Anscombe : Intention (2PH1325)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier B A - philosophie</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	3
<b>Pilier principal B A - philosophie</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	3
<b>Pilier secondaire B A - philosophie</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	3

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

#### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

#### Equipe enseignante

Kathrin Koslicki

#### Contenu

G. E. M. Anscombe's *Intention*, first published in 1957, is one of the classic texts of contemporary analytic philosophy. According to Donald Davidson, "Anscombe's *Intention* is the most important treatment of action since Aristotle". In it, Anscombe lays the groundwork required for the moral evaluation of actions, such as the decision by US president, Harry S. Truman, to authorize the use of nuclear weapons detonated over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Despite its uncontested role in the canon of 20th century analytic philosophy, Anscombe's account of action and intention is also notoriously difficult to understand. In this seminar, we will engage in a close reading of Anscombe's text, with the help of commentary provided by John Schwenkler in his 2019 *Anscombe's Intention: A Guide* (Oxford Guides to Philosophy, Oxford University Press, New York).

#### Forme de l'évaluation

The methods of assessment for this seminar are comprised of the following components:

- (1) Two short papers (60% of final grade, 30% each)
- (2) In-class presentations (20% of final grade)
- (4) Attendance, participation, discussion forum (20% of final grade)

(1) The two short papers should be approximately 1000-1250 words. The first paper can be on any suitable topic relevant to the readings and materials discussed in class during the first half of the semester. The second paper can be on any suitable topic relevant to the readings and materials discussed in class during the second half of the semester. Guidelines and a detailed grading rubric with criteria of evaluation will be made available. Students will receive assistance in finding a suitable topic as well as feedback on a draft before handing in the final version of their papers. (2) Students will be asked to give an in-class presentation of approximately 15-20 minutes at least once, and possibly more than once, during the semester. The in-class presentation should ideally help students find a paper topic, although it is not required that the topic of the presentation will also become the topic of the paper. (3) Attendance as well as participation during seminar meetings and on the discussion forum are expected and required. Students will receive high marks for participation, if they are successful at demonstrating their engagement with the material discussed in this seminar, e.g., by contributing to class discussions or to the discussion forum regularly and in a constructive way; by attending office hours or scheduling appointments; by communicating via email; etc. Work that is not submitted by the required deadline, without good cause, will not be accepted and will automatically result in a failing grade for that assessment.

**Due Dates:** The first short paper is due on Monday, April 11, 2022; the second short paper is due on Monday, May 30, 2022. Both papers will be returned to students with comments and a grade. If the grade is not satisfactory (below 4), students who have submitted papers will have the opportunity to hand in a revised version of their papers by June 30, 2022.

**Assessment criteria:** level of preparedness; clarity of oral and written expression; specification of technical terms used; structure (e.g., plan, logical organization of ideas); ability to highlight key points; persuasiveness of arguments; originality and creativity of positions defended; speed of reflection during oral presentations.

**Language of instruction:** The language of instruction for this seminar will be English and French.

#### Documentation

Anscombe, G. E. M. (1957): *Intention*, Basil Blackwell, Oxford, UK, reprinted by Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, 2000

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Schwenkler, John (2019): *Anscombe's Intention: A Guide*, Oxford Guides to Philosophy, Oxford University Press, New York, New York, USA

#### **Pré-requis**

None.

#### **Forme de l'enseignement**

Seminar, 2 hours per week, Monday, 10:00-12:00, Spring semester.

#### **Objectifs d'apprentissage**

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Evaluate how philosophers apply key concepts and principles to central problems in the philosophy of action.
- Define key concepts and principles used in philosophical debates concerning Anscombe's account of action and intention.
- Discuss central texts on philosophical debates in the philosophy of action.
- Examine how prominent figures in the philosophy of action are influenced by, and have influenced, their predecessors or successors.
- Describe the principal positions associated with prominent figures in the philosophy of action.
- Recognise the main influences and connections between Anscombe's account of action and intention and other areas of philosophy as well as connected disciplines, such as cognitive science, psychology, etc.

#### **Compétences transférables**

- Work together with other students to contribute to group projects.
- Produce well-reasoned arguments orally and in writing for or against positions that are advanced in the philosophy of action.
- Write a well-organized and well-reasoned argumentative paper on a particular text, problem, or position advanced in the philosophy of action.