

Three Kantian Big Ideas Sellars Adopts:

1. The normativity of intentionality.
2. Doctrine of the categories.
3. Transcendental Idealism.

Five Metaphysical Topics:

1. The nature of meanings.
2. How to think about abstract objects.
3. The status of modal properties.
4. How norms fit in the natural world.
5. Ontological nominalism: world of particulars vs. world of facts.

Summary Agenda:

The organizing conceit of the opening session of the seminar is to move clockwise around the diagram on the website, thereby tracing out a path through Sellars's work that hits the high points, is both *roughly* chronological as far as Sellars's development is concerned, and tracks the order in which we will read and discuss things in the rest of the seminar. And I'm going to go literally clockwise, in the sense of assigning actual 12-hour clock times (not dates) to the different elements.

First segment:

- 8 o'clock: Normativity. Rule-governed social discursive practice. LRB, SRLG.
9 o'clock: Inference and Meaning as Functional Classification. IM, MFC.
10 o'clock: Observation and Theory: Epistemology. EPM.

Second segment:

- 11 o'clock: Carnap's metalinguistic treatment of "Triangularity is a property (universal)."
12 o'clock: Semantic Nominalism: Sellars's metalinguistic treatment of abstract objects.
EAE, AE, GE, NS.
1 o'clock: Alethic Modality. CDCM

Third segment:

- 2 o'clock: MI/SI. PSIM
3 o'clock: Scientific Realism as Transcendental Idealism. *SM* Chs. 2 and 5.
Note that the development from 2 to 3, from 1961 to 1965, is critical. In *SM* Sellars develops the sense in which the empirically real but transcendentally ideal "common-sense framework" can be regarded as also transcendentally real.
4 o'clock: Ontological Nominalism.
5 o'clock: Picturing.