



# PEIRCE: HARVARD LECTURES ON PRAGMATISM

## READING SCHEDULE [2025]

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July 6 – July 12	<p>The Maxim of Pragmatism</p> <p><i>We'll discuss Peirce's "pragmatic maxim" and distinguish it from the better-known notions of pragmatism found in James, Dewey, Rorty, etc.</i></p>
July 13 – July 19	<p>On Phenomenology</p> <p><i>Peirce explains the most fundamental conception of reason on which all his thinking is based, the "phenomenological categories" of Firstness, Secondness, and Thirdness.</i></p>
July 20 – July 26	<p>The Categories Defended</p> <p><i>Peirce elaborates on his three categories and gives justification for how all three are constitutive of our specifically-human experience.</i></p>
July 27 – Aug 2	<p>The Seven Systems of Metaphysics</p> <p><i>An evaluation of common systems (nihilism, individualism, Hegelianism, Cartesianism, Berkleyanism, Kantianism, and nominalism) according to the Peircean categories.</i></p>
Aug 10 – Aug 16	<p>The Three Normative Sciences</p> <p><i>Peirce develops, on the grounds of his phenomenology, an explanation of esthetics, ethics, and logic as the normative sciences relied upon by all others.</i></p>
Aug 17 – Aug 23	<p>The Nature of Meaning</p> <p><i>An explanation of inferential reasoning, with a special focus on the abductive reasoning by which we attain meaning—and how this is the essential goal of pragmatism.</i></p>
Aug 24 – Aug 30	<p>Pragmatism as the Logic of Abduction</p> <p><i>A salutary elaboration on the notion that pragmatism is the logic of abduction, with which Peirce concludes his profound lectures.</i></p>
Aug 31 – Sep 6	<p>Sundry Logical Conceptions</p> <p><i>A difficult but important text which elucidates the intimate connection between Peirce's phenomenology, his pragmatism, and his semiotics.</i></p>