

History of Analytic Philosophy 410 — Syllabus

Lecturer: Sidney Felder, e-mail: sf30@panix.com

Rutgers The State University of New Jersey, Fall 2019, Tue & Thurs 4:30-5:50

Office Hours: By Appointment

For many reasons, there is no uncontroversial general characterization of the range of work that tends to be classified under the heading “Analytic Philosophy”. For our purposes, an analytic philosopher is anyone whose work is conducted in awareness of the fundamental importance, for every variety of foundational and philosophical inquiry, of obtaining a proper understanding of what properties of thought, perception, language, and the world, and what properties of their relationship, make possible the meaningful ascription of truth, falsity, and referential significance of any kind to such things as thoughts, beliefs, sentences, propositions, and judgments. This course covers the early history of analytic philosophy, concentrating largely on writings of Gottlob Frege, Bertrand Russell, G.E. Moore, and Ludwig Wittgenstein, whose work secured recognition of the necessity as well as the great difficulty of this kind of inquiry.

Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4                      Transition from idealism, naturalism, and Kantianism

- Russell     *Our Knowledge of the External World* (1914) Chapter I, Current Tendencies;  
                  Chapter II, Logic As the Essence of Philosophy  
Frege        *The Foundations of Arithmetic* (1884), Introduction and sections 1-28.  
Moore       *Principia Ethica* (1903), Chapters I, II, III (36-44), VI (110-121)  
Russell     *The Principles of Mathematics* (1903), Chapters I, III (Sections 37-38, 43-45), IV,  
                  V (56-60, 63-65), VI (66-74), VIII (86-87, 93), IX, X, XVI, XXVI,  
                  XXVII (217-219), XLII, XLIII (337-341), LI

Weeks 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10              Construction of a Language for Mathematics.

- Frege        *Begriffsschrift* (1879) Preface, Chapter 1 (Sections 1-3, 8)  
—            *The Foundations of Arithmetic* (1884), Sections 29-79, 87-91  
—            “On Sense and Reference” (1892)  
—            “Concept and Object” (1892)  
Russell     *Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy* (1920),  
                  Chapter XV, Propositional Functions; Chapter XVI, Descriptions  
—            “On Denoting” (1905)  
—            “The Metaphysician’s Nightmare”

Weeks 10, 11, 12, 13, 14            Objects and States of Affairs

- Russell        “On The Nature of Truth” (1906), Sections 1 and 2  
—            *The Problems of Philosophy* (1912), Chapter XII, Truth and Falsehood  
Frege        “The Thought” (1918)  
Wittgenstein    *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1921)

There will be a take-home exam, to be submitted either in class or (if e-mailed) either in PDF or plain text format.

Final grade will be determined by quality of both written work and class participation.

Note: The university has directed that all syllabi make note of the existence of The Rutgers Self-Reporting Absence Website (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra>), as well as of the request that it be utilized by students to indicate the date(s) and reason for their absence from class.