

PHI 321: 20th Century Theories of Knowledge, Reality, and Meaning
Spring 2005

INSTRUCTOR:

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Office hours: W 1:30–3:30p.m., and by appointment

CLASS MEETINGS:

MWF 10:35–11:30a.m. in 105 Hall of Languages.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide an introduction to the history of 20th century philosophy, focusing especially on the contemporary Anglo-American ‘analytic’ tradition. Analytic philosophers address many of the same questions that concern philosophers in other traditions, such as: What is the world really like? What, if anything, do we know about the world? What is the relation between our language and the world? What distinguishes the analytic tradition is its use of certain tools, including formal logic, its focus on language, and its style of analysis. By studying how analytic philosophers have grappled with the philosophical questions mentioned above, we will learn what is distinctive about this tradition. Along the way, we will read works by Frege, Russell, Moore, Wittgenstein, Ayer, Carnap, and others.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Read the required pieces closely.
In most cases, you will need to read the pieces more than once to understand what’s going on in them. Be sure to do the readings before we discuss them in class.
2. Regularly attend class.
Attendance in class is required, and essential for doing well in this course. If you have a good reason for missing class, e-mail me *before class* to let me know what the reason is. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting notes and handouts from that class.
3. Participate in class.
There will be plenty of opportunity during class time to ask questions, make comments, and respond to what I and your classmates say. Everyone is expected to come to class prepared to participate.
I will attempt to make sure that the class atmosphere is such that everyone feels comfortable speaking up. If you feel that that is not the case, I strongly encourage you to come talk to me.

4. Take three exams during the term.
The dates for the exams are indicated on the course outline. Each exam will be preceded by a review session. Further information about the formats of the exams will be announced later in the semester.
5. Write a final paper.
This paper should be 7-8 pages in length. The due date is indicated on the course outline.
All papers must be typed or word-processed. Please keep a copy when you submit the paper to me. Late work will be accepted only under exceptional circumstances, and only when an extension is granted *in advance* of the due date.
I encourage everyone, but especially those with not much prior experience in philosophy, to discuss rough drafts of the paper with me.

GRADING

Class attendance and participation:	10%
Three exams (25% each):	75%
Final paper:	15%

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The following is Syracuse University's policy on academic honesty:

Syracuse University students shall exhibit honesty in all academic endeavors. Cheating in any form is not tolerated, nor is assisting another person to cheat. The submission of any work by a student is taken as a guarantee that the thoughts and expressions in it are the student's own except when properly credited to another. Violations of this principle include: giving or receiving aid in an exam or where otherwise prohibited, fraud, plagiarism, the falsification or forgery of any record, or any other deceptive act in connection with academic work. Plagiarism is the representation of another's words, ideas, programs, formulae, opinions, or other products of work as one's own either overtly or by failing to attribute them to their true source. (Section 1.0, University Rules and Regulations.)

Anyone in violation of this policy will *at least* receive a failing grade on the relevant assignment. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, you should look at <http://www-hl.syr.edu/cas-pages/PromAcademicHonesty.htm>, and come talk to me.

REQUIRED READINGS:

All readings will be put on Course Reserve at Bird Library. In the course of the semester, readings may be added to the initial list included in this syllabus.

READINGS:

[All readings mentioned below will be available from Course Reserve at Bird Library. In the course of the semester, readings may be added to or deleted from this list. All changes will be announced in class. Please be sure to keep track of changes.]

I. INTRODUCTION

No reading

II. EPISTEMOLOGY

- Moore, "Proof of an External World"
- Moore, "Refutation of Idealism"
- Russell, "The Relation of Sense-Data to Physics"
- Wittgenstein, selection from *On Certainty*
- Ryle, "Knowing How and Knowing That"
- Chisholm, "The Problem of the Criterion"

III. METAPHYSICS

- Russell, selection from *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism*
- Wittgenstein, selection from *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*
- Ayer, selection from *Language, Truth, and Logic*
 - (i) "Elimination of Metaphysics"
 - (ii) "The Principle of Verification"
- Carnap, "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology"
- Quine, "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"
- Quine, "On What There Is"

IV. PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

- Frege, "On Sense and Reference"
- Russell, "On Denoting"
- Strawson, "On Referring"
- Russell, "Mr. Strawson on Referring"

- Grice, "Meaning"
- Putnam, "Meaning and Reference"

COURSE OUTLINE:

Monday, January 17 Wednesday, January 19 Friday, January 21	NO CLASS (Martin Luther King day) <i>Introduction to the course</i> <i>Epistemology</i>
Monday, January 24 Wednesday, January 26 Friday, January 28	
Monday, January 31 Wednesday, February 2 Friday, February 4	
Monday, February 7 Wednesday, February 9 Friday, February 11	
Monday, February 14 Wednesday, February 16 Friday, February 18	Review Day FIRST EXAM
Monday, February 21 Wednesday, February 23 Friday, February 25	<i>Metaphysics</i>
Monday, February 28 Wednesday, March 2 Friday, March 4	
Monday, March 7 Wednesday, March 9 Friday, March 11	
Monday, March 14 Wednesday, March 16 Friday, March 18	NO CLASS (Spring Break) NO CLASS (Spring Break) NO CLASS (Spring Break)
Monday, March 21 Wednesday, March 23 Friday, March 25	NO CLASS (Good Friday)
Monday, March 28 Wednesday, March 30 Friday, April 1	Review Day SECOND EXAM <i>Philosophy of Language</i>
Monday, April 4 Wednesday, April 6 Friday, April 8	

Monday, April 11
Wednesday, April 13
Friday, April 15

Monday, April 18
Wednesday, April 20
Friday, April 22

Monday, April 25
Wednesday, April 27
Friday, April 29

Monday, May 2

Monday, May 9

Review Day
FINAL EXAM

Last day of course

FINAL PAPER DUE