

ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY

An Evolution of Analytic Thought

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we'll read classic works of analytic philosophy that have helped shape the discipline as we currently know it. In each case, the classic texts will be followed by contemporary work that serves to highlight the evolution of the philosophical debate.

For instance, we'll read Frege's "On Sense and Reference" and then talk about famous puzzles and theories of hyperintensionality developed over half a century later. We'll read Carnap's "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology" and talk about how contemporary metaphysicians have appropriated or rejected Carnap's distinction between internal and external questions. The course will be split into various units that each focus on an area of analytic philosophy. These areas will include: philosophy of language, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and philosophical methodology.

Over the course of the term, you'll gain a solid grounding in the twentieth-century history of analytic philosophy, as we progress through representative texts from that period. But you will also come to appreciate these texts as catalysts and constituents of ongoing investigations and debates.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND CLASS FORMAT

This class will allow you acquire and develop a deep understanding of analytic philosophy through a historical perspective. This will be done by reading some of the earliest foundations of the discipline and moving to works that are as contemporary as can be. The evaluations throughout the course – which include a mix of reading responses, quizzes, exams, and essays – reflects the nature of these objectives.

Each class will explore assigned reading(s) through a mixture of lecture and discussion. Each student is required to have done the assigned reading(s) in order to actively participate in the course.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

This class is designed to accommodate a wide variety of students at various levels of background in analytic philosophy. This means that no prior background in any particular sub-field of analytic philosophy is required. However, having some background in a sub-field of analytic philosophy and in logic is recommended.

READING SCHEDULE

Lecture 1: Context and Scope of Analytic Philosophy

No reading

1. PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

Lecture 2: Sense and Reference part 1

Reading: Frege, G. (1892), "On Sense and Reference".

Lecture 3: Sense and Reference part 2

Reading: Kripke, S. (1979), "A Puzzle About Belief".

Lecture 4: Sense and Reference part 3

Reading: Salmon, N. (1986), *Frege's Puzzle*, chpt. 8.

Lecture 5: Denoting part 1

Reading: Russell, B. (1905), "On Denoting".

Lecture 6: Denoting part 2

Readings: Strawson, P.F. (1950), "On Referring". Russell, B. (1957), "Mr. Strawson on Referring".

Lecture 7: Denoting part 3

Reading: Donnellan, K. (1966), "Reference and Definite Descriptions".

Lecture 8: Denoting part 4

Reading: Rothchild, D. (2007), "The Elusive Scope of Descriptions".

2. METAPHYSICS

Lecture 9: State of Metaphysics part 1

Reading: Quine, V.W. (1948), "On What There is".

Lecture 10: State of Metaphysics part 2

Reading: Carnap, R. (1950) "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology".

Lecture 11: State of Metaphysics part 3

Reading: Quine, V.W. (1951). "Two Dogmas of Empiricism".

Lecture 12: State of Metaphysics part 4

Readings: Price, H. (2009), "Metaphysics after Carnap: the Ghost who Walks?". Soames, S. (2009), "Ontology, Analyticity, and Meaning: the Quine-Carnap Dispute".

Lecture 13: State of Metaphysics part 5

Readings: Melia, J. (1995), "On What There's Not". Manley, D. (2009), "When Best Theories Go Bad".

3. EPISTEMOLOGY

Lecture 14: Pre-Gettier part 1

Readings: Russell, B. (1910), "Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description". Russell, B. (1912), *Problems of Philosophy* chpt. 5. Russell, B. (1914), *Our Knowledge of the External World* chpt. 3.

Lecture 15: Pre-Gettier part 2

Reading: Moore, G.E. (1939) "Proof of an External World".

Lecture 16: Pre-Gettier part 3

Reading: Wittgenstein, L. (1969), *On Certainty* selections.

Lecture 17: Gettier and Post-Gettier part 1

Readings: Gettier, E. (1966), "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?". Zagzebski, L. (1994), "The Inescapability of Gettier Problems"

Lecture 18: Gettier and Post-Gettier part 2

Readings: Williamson, T. (2000), *Knowledge and its Limits* chpt. 1.

Lecture 19: Gettier and Post-Gettier part 3

Readings: Weinberg, J., Nichols, S., and Stich, S. (2001), "Normativity and Epistemic Intuitions". Nagel, J. (2012), "Intuitions and Experiments: A Defense of the Case Method in Epistemology". Boyd, K. and Nagel, J. (2014), "The Reliability of Epistemic Intuitions".

4. PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Lecture 20: The Mental and Physical part 1

Readings: Russell, B. (1914), "On the Nature of Acquaintance". Russell, B. (1921), *The Analysis of Mind*, selections. Russell, B. (1927), *The Analysis of Matter*, selections.

Lecture 21: The Mental and Physical part 2

Readings: Ryle, G. (1949), "Descartes' Myth". Carnap, R. (1933), "Psychology in Physical Language". Putnam, H. (1968), "Brains and Behaviour".

Lecture 22: The Mental and Physical part 3

Readings: Putnam, H. (1973), "The Nature of Mental States". Block, N. (1978), "Troubles with Functionalism" (excerpt).

Lecture 23: Consciousness and Qualia part 1

Readings: Wittgenstein, L. (1953), *Philosophical Investigations*, selections. Nagel, T. (1974) "What is it Like to Be a Bat?".

Lecture 24: Consciousness and Qualia part 1

Reading: Chalmers, D. (1995) "Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness". Cooney & Gazzaniga (2003) "Neural disorders and the structure of human consciousness".

5. PHILOSOPHICAL METHODOLOGY

Lecture 25: Ordinary Language Philosophy part 1

Readings: Wittgenstein, L. (1953), *Philosophical Investigations*, selections. Wittgenstein, L. (1958), *The Blue and Brown Books*, selections.

Lecture 26: Ordinary Language Philosophy part 2

Readings: Austin, J.L. (1956). "A Plea for Excuses". Austin, J.L. (1962), *How to Do Things With Words*, selections. Grice, H.P. (1989), *Studies in the Way of Words*, selections.

Lecture 27: Experimental Philosophy part 1

Readings: Næss, A. (1933), “ “You Assert This?": An Empirical Study of Weight Expressions". Næss, A. (1953), “An Empirical Study of the Expressions “True,” “Perfectly Certain” and “Extremely Probable.” ”

Lecture 28: Experimental Philosophy part 2

Readings: Murphy, T. (2014), “Experimental Philosophy: 1935–1965”. Knobe, J. (2016), “Experimental Philosophy is Cognitive Science”.