Philosophy 500, Introduction to Contemporary Philosophical Literature, Fall 2014 Wed: 2:00 – 4:20
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Description
An advanced introduction to leading philosophers in the analytic tradition from Frege (1879) to the present. Topics center on philosophical logic, the philosophy of language, metaphysics, and the philosophy of mind.

Texts
Weekly readings available from Hoose, the net, the book store, and, on occasion, the MHP office

Books on Reserve in the Hoose Library

Peter Geach, Max Black, eds. Translations from the Philosophical Writings of Gottlob Frege
Alfred Tarski Logic, Semantics, Metamathematics
Rudolf Carnap Meaning and Necessity
W. V. Quine *From a Logical Point of View
*Word and Object
Saul Kripke *Naming and Necessity
Philosophical Troubles
Hilary Putnam Mind, Language, and Reality: Philosophical Papers, Vol. 2
David Lewis Philosophical Papers (Volume 1)
The Plurality of Worlds
Counterfactuals
Ned Block ed. Readings in Philosophy of Psychology Vol.1
Salmon and Soames, eds. Propositions and Attitudes
Scott Soames *The Analytic Tradition, Vol. 1
*Analytic Philosophy in America
Philosophical Analysis in the Twentieth Century, Vol. 2
Philosophy of Language
*Understanding Truth
Philosophical Essays, Volume 2
Peter Ludlow, ed. *Readings in the Philosophy of Language

* Available at book store

Course Requirements
In addition to reading assignments, there will be weekly written assignments, 1200–1500 words in length, on specified topics, due electronically 48 hours before the class. The assignments will be returned with comments prior to the meeting, and will be discussed, along with new material, during the seminar.

Credit and Grading
Students will be graded on their written assignments and oral participation. With the exception of class participation – which, at the discretion of the instructor, may be taken into account for up to 10% “extra credit” for the course – the weekly essays will be the sole determinants of the grade. Students completing the course will receive normal seminar credit.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Weeks 1-3: Frege
Week 1: Frege, The Foundations of Arithmetic, sections 1-4, 45-57, 60-63, 68-69, and 70-83, Soames
Analytic Tradition in Philosophy, Chapter 1. Students should, before the first class, read as much as they can of the Frege in conjunction with sections 2,4, and 5 of Soames chapter 1.
Week 2: Frege, “On Sense and Reference,” “Function and Concept,” “Concept and Object,” (Geach and Black) and the remainder of Soames chapter 1 plus sections 1-4 of chapter 2.

Week 3: Frege, “The Thought” (in Ludlow); Soames, sections 5-7 of chapter 2 of The Analytic Tradition; John Perry, “Frege on Demonstratives” (in Ludlow); Saul Kripke, “Frege’s Theory of Sense and Reference”, (in Philosophical Troubles); Soames section 8 of chapter 2 of The Analytic Tradition.

Weeks 4-5: Russell
Bertrand Russell, “On Denoting” (available online) and “Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description” (in Salmon and Soames, also available online).
Soames, chapter 8 of The Analytic Tradition.

Weeks 6-7: Tarski on Truth
Week 6: Tarski, “The Concept of Truth in Formalized Languages,” section 1 in Logic, Semantics, Metamathematics; Soames, Understanding Truth, pp. 49-56, and pp. 67-86.


Weeks 8-10: Quine and Carnap on Meaning, Necessity, Apriority, Analyticity, and Ontology
Week 8: Quine, “Truth by Convention” (xerox), Soames, sections 1 and 2 (number sections starting at “The Logical Empiricist Background”) of “The Place of Quine in Analytic Philosophy,” in Analytic Philosophy in America and on web site; Quine, “Notes on Existence and Necessity,” (Journal of Philosophy 1943 available online), “Two Dogmas of Empiricism in From a Logical Point of View”; Soames, sections 3 and 4 of “The Place of Quine in Analytic Philosophy.”

Week 9: Quine, “On What There Is,” in From a Logical Point of View; Carnap, “Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology” and “Meaning and Synonymy in Natural Languages” (both in Meaning and Necessity); Soames, sections 5 and 6 of “The Place of Quine in Analytic Philosophy.”

Week 10: Quine, chapters 1 and 2 of Word and Object, and “Ontological Relativity,” the section pp. 185-201 (Journal of Philosophy, 1968, available online); “The Place of Quine in Analytic Philosophy.”

Weeks 11-12: Kripke
Week 11: Kripke, Naming and Necessity; Soames, sections 4.1 and 4.2 of chapter 4 of Philosophy of Language; also chapter 14 of Vol. 2 of Philosophical Analysis in the 20th Century.

Week 12: Soames, “Kripke on Epistemic and Metaphysical Possibility” and “What are Natural Kinds?” both in Analytic Philosophy in America (also on web site).

Week 13: Lewis
David Lewis, pp. 84-91, “Possible Worlds,” in Counterfactuals; “A Philosophers’ Paradise”, sections 1.1,1-2, 4.1 On the Plurality of Worlds; Selection from Soames “David Lewis’s Place in Analytic Philosophy,” pp. 139-148 in Analytic Philosophy in America (also available on web site).

Week 14: Putnam, Lewis, and Kripke on Mind and Body