Philosophy 427: Twentieth Century Anglo-American Philosophy
Scott Soames

A study of the growth and development of philosophical analysis in the first 50 years of 20th century British and American philosophy. Topics discussed: the early analytic paradigms of Gottlob Frege, G.E. Moore and Bertrand Russell, the logical atomism of middle Russell and early Wittgenstein, the rise and fall of logical positivism, and the post-positivist perspective of Quine. In addition to tracing changes in the nature of analysis as a philosophical method, we will chart the development of major metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical views of leading figures of the first half of this century.

Reading
In addition to a number of articles on reserve, the following books have been placed on reserve for the course: (Starred books have been ordered and should be available at the book store.)

* A.J. Ayer
  Language Truth, and Logic
  Logical Positivism

* Gottlob Frege
  Foundations of Arithmetic

R. J. Fogelin
  Wittgenstein

G.E. Moore
  Philosophical Papers
  Philosophical Studies
  Some Main Problems of Philosophy
  Ethics
  Principia Ethica

* W. V. O. Quine
  From a Logical Point of View

* Bertrand Russell
  Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy
  Our Knowledge of the External World
  Logic and Knowledge
  Philosophical Studies

*S. Soames
  Philosophical Analysis in the Twentieth Century, Vol. 1:
  The Dawn of Analysis
  Philosophical Analysis in the Twentieth Century, Vol. 2:
  The Analytic Tradition in Philosophy

W. D. Ross
  The Right and the Good
  The Foundations of Ethics

*L. Wittgenstein
  Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus

Required Work
Two 1500 word analyses of selected philosophical texts
One mid-term quiz
One end-of-term quiz
One 2000 - 3000 word term paper

Grading
The term paper constitutes 40% of the final grade, the quizzes and analyses 20% each -- with your lowest quiz or analysis excluded in computing the final grad for the course. Analyses submitted on time that receive low grades can be rewritten once -- after consultation and within one week of their return -- for a maximum grade of B+. Deadlines will be enforced by marking down late papers 1/3 of a grade point (e.g. from B+ to B, B to B-, or B- to C+) for each 24 hour-period of lateness.
Schedule

1. **Gottlob Frege: Logic, Mathematics, and Philosophy**
   What is the source of mathematical knowledge? What are numbers?
   
   **Reading**
   Frege  *Foundations of Arithmetic*, sections 46, 56, 58, 60-66, 79-81
   Soames  *ATP*, chap 1, sections 1, 2, pp. 20-24, 30-34 of sec 4, 5.1, 5.3 + pp. 54-56

2. **The Revolt of G.E. Moore and Bertrand Russell Against Absolute Idealism**
   a. Becoming G.E. Moore
   b. Russell’s search for a substitute for religion
   c. Against the doctrine that Truth is One
   
   **Reading**
   Soames  *ATP*, chapter 3, sections 1, 2, 5. 6
   Soames  *ATP*, chapter 7, section 1
   Soames  *ATP*, chapter 9 section 1.1
   Russell  “The Monistic Theory of Truth” in *Philosophical Essays* (Recommended)
   Moore  “Eternal and Internal Relations” in *Philosophical Studies* (Recommended)
   Pigden  “Russell’s Moral Philosophy” Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Recommended)

3. **G.E. Moore: The Dawn of Analysis**
   a. The "external world"
   b. The job of philosophy
   c. Introduction of sense data
   d. 'Good' and the naturalistic fallacy
   
   **Reading**
   Moore,  "A Defense of Common Sense," *Philosophical Papers*
   Soames  Chapter 1 of *The Dawn of Analysis*
   Moore  "Proof of an External World," in *Philosophical Papers*
   -----------  chapter 2, of *Some Main Problems of Philosophy*
   Soames  Chapter 2 of *The Dawn of Analysis*
   Moore  *Principia Ethica*, Preface to the 1st edition; sections 1 – 14 chapter 1;
   sections 86 and 87 chapter 5; sections 110 and 113 chapter 6
   Soames  Chapter 3 of *The Dawn of Analysis*

2. **Bertrand Russell: Logical Constructions, Reduction, Logical Form**
   a. Extreme realism and the theory of descriptions
   b. Logicism: the paradigm of reduction
   c. Verification and the foundations of knowledge
   d. Reduction and the "external world"
   
   **Reading**
   Russell,  "Descriptions," chapter 16 of *Intro to Math. Philosophy*
   -----------,  "Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description," Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, 11, available on JSTOR; also on reserve
   Soames,  chapter 5 of *The Dawn of Analysis*
3. **Logical Atomism**
   a. The atomists' logic
   b. The correspondence between language and the world
   c. The metaphysical version of atomism: Wittgenstein
   d. Problems and insights of atomism

**Reading**
- Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*
- Soames, chapters 8 – 11 of *The Dawn of Analysis*
- Fogelin, *Wittgenstein*, chapters 1 – 9 (Recommended)

4. **The Rise and Fall of Logical Positivism**
   a. The positivist's enterprise
   b. The linguistic theory of the necessary and the apriori
   c. The empiricist theory of meaning and its problems
   d. Emotivism in Ethics
   e. Normative Ethics in the Era of Emotivism

**Reading**
- Hempel, "The Empiricist Criterion of Meaning," in *Logical Positivism*
- Soames, chapter 13 of *The Dawn of Analysis*
- Stevenson, "Emotive Meaning of Ethical Terms," in *Logical Positivism*
- Soames, chapter 14 of *The Dawn of Analysis*
- Ross, *The Right and the Good*
- Soames, chapter 15 of *The Dawn of Analysis*

5. **Holistic Verificationism: W. V. O. Quine**
   a. The attack on analyticity and the linguistic theory of the apriori.
   b. Rejection of positivism and reductionism
   c. Reformulating empiricist principles in holistic terms
   d. Criticism of Quine’s positive views

**Reading**
- Soames, chapter 12, *The Dawn of Analysis*
- Quine, "Two Dogmas," “On What There Is” From a Logical Point of View
- Soames, chapter 16 and section 1 of chapter 17, *The Dawn of Analysis*
Soames, Section 2 of chapter 17 of *The Dawn of Analysis*