

The Analytic Tradition

Syllabus

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the analytic tradition in philosophy. The aim of the course is to provide an overview of the first half of this tradition, starting from the publication of Frege's *Begriffsschrift* in 1879 and reaching up to the posthumous publication of Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations* in 1953. The course will focus on four aspects of this period in the history of analytic philosophy: (1) its initial founding phase, as inaugurated in the early seminal writings of Gottlob Frege, G. E. Moore, Bertrand Russell, as well as Ludwig Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*; (2) the inheritance and reshaping of some of the central ideas of the founders of analytic philosophy at the hands of the members of the Vienna Circle and their critics, especially as developed in the writings of Otto Neurath, Rudolf Carnap, Moritz Schlick, and W. V. O. Quine, (3) the cross-fertilization of the analytic and Kantian traditions in philosophy and the resulting initiation of a new form of analytic Kantianism, as found in the work of some of the logical positivists, as well as in the writings of some of their main critics, such as C. I. Lewis; (4) the movement of Ordinary Language Philosophy and Oxford Analysis, with a special focus on the writings of Gilbert Ryle and the later Wittgenstein.

Instructor

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Graduate Course Assistant

Amichai Amit: sections 01 and 02
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Required Texts and Readings

All of the readings will be available through the course's Chalk website. The readings for each meeting divide into required readings and background readings. Students taking the course for credit are expected to do all of the required reading. The background readings are optional.

Structure of the Course, Requirements and Related Issues

Meeting Times: The course will meet all ten weeks of the quarter on Tuesdays and Thursdays (excepting Thanksgiving Day) from 4:30 to 5:50pm in Cobb 303.

Intended Audience: This course is open only to undergraduates. This course is recommended as a first course in philosophy.

Undergraduate Sections: There are two sections of the course for undergraduates. These are taught by Amichai Amit. Every undergraduate should have been assigned or have signed up for a section. You may only transfer into an alternative section with Amichai Amit's permission. Weekly attendance of sections is mandatory for undergraduates.

Policy on Auditors: Anyone with a serious interest in the topic is welcome to audit the seminar.

Announcements: There is a Chalk website for this course (chalk.uchicago.edu). Announcements (modifications to the syllabus, etc.) will periodically be posted there. Students are expected to keep abreast of these. Additional readings will also be assigned that are not presently on the syllabus and those readings will be made available through the Chalk site.

Format: The main meetings of the course will have a lecture format. The sections will have a discussion format.

Work for the course: All undergraduates are expected to attend class regularly, to be conversant with the required readings, to attend sections regularly, and to be ready to participate in discussion in section.

Grade for the course: The undergraduate grade will be based 20% on section participation, 25% on the first paper, 25% on the second paper and 30% on the third paper.

Papers: Students taking the course for credit are expected write three papers: the first is due on the Friday of the 4th week, Oct. 26 at 16:00, the second on Friday of the 7th week, Nov. 17 at 16:00, and the third on Friday of the 11th week, Dec. 14 at 16:00. The papers should be submitted as emails attachments and sent to Amichai Amit's email: amichaia@uchicago.edu.

Schedule of Meetings, Topics and Reading Assignments

First Meeting (Tuesday, Sep. 30): Introductory Meeting

Topics to be covered in the first meeting:

- Overview of the structure of the course
- Survey of themes to be covered in the course
- Explanation of various aspects of the syllabus
- Relation of the discussion sections to the main meetings of the course
- **Note:** No assigned reading for the first meeting.

Second Meeting (Thursday, Oct. 2): Introduction to the Analytic Tradition

Required readings:

Conant and Elliott, "General Introduction" to *After Kant, The Analytic Tradition*

Background readings:

Conant and Elliott, "Afterword" to *After Kant, The Analytic Tradition*

Third Meeting (Tuesday, Oct. 7): The Kantian Background

Required readings:

Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, excerpt
Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, excerpt
Kant, *Logic*, excerpts

Background reading:

Conant and Elliott, "Introduction to Part I" of *After Kant, The Analytic Tradition*
Conant, "The Search for Logically Alien Thought," pp. 128-134
Boyle, "Kant on Logic and the Laws of Understanding"

Fourth Meeting (Thursday, Oct. 9): Introduction to Early Analytic Philosophy

Required readings:

Frege, *Begriffsschrift*, excerpt
Conant and Elliott, "Introduction to Part II"

Background readings:

Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Frege"
Conant, "The Search for Logically Alien Thought," pp. 134-137
Frege, "Thoughts", *Logical Investigations*, pp. 1-30

Fifth Meeting (Tuesday, Oct. 14): Frege's Critique of Empiricism and Psychologism

Required readings:

Frege, *The Foundations of Arithmetic*, excerpts
Frege, *Basic Laws of Arithmetic: Exposition of the System*
J. S. Mill, *A System of Logic*, excerpts
Geach, *Mental Acts*, excerpts

Background readings:

Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Kant"
Ricketts, "Objectivity and Objecthood"
Conant, "The Search for Logically Alien Thought," pp. 137-150.
Chisholm, *Theory of Knowledge*, Second edition, excerpt

Sixth Meeting (Thursday, Oct. 16): Frege on Logic

Required readings:

Frege, "On Concept and Object"
Conant: "The Method of the Tractatus," sections 4-6, pp. 383-392

Background readings:

Geach, "Frege and Early Wittgenstein on Saying and Showing"
Diamond, "What Does a Concept Script Do?"
Frege, "Function and Concept"
Frege, "On Sense and Reference"

Seventh Meeting (Tuesday, Oct. 21): G. E. Moore's Revolt against Idealism

Required readings:

Moore, "The Nature of Judgment"
Bradley, "Reality and Thought", excerpts

Background readings:

Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Moore"
Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Bradley"
Hylton: *Russell, Idealism and the Emergence of Analytic Philosophy*, pp. 117-152

Eighth Meeting (Thursday, Oct. 23): Russell's Revolt against Idealism

Required readings:

Russell, *Principles of Mathematics*, excerpt
Russell, *Problems of Philosophy*, excerpt

Background readings:

Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Russell"
Hylton: "The Nature of the Proposition and the Revolt against Idealism"

Ninth Meeting (Tuesday, Oct. 28): Russell's Conception of Logic

Required readings:

Russell, *Our Knowledge of the External World*, excerpt
Russell, *Philosophy of Logical Atomism*, excerpt
Meinong, *On Assumptions*, excerpt

Background reading:

Hylton, "The Logic in Russell's Logicism"
Russell, "On Denoting"
Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Meinong"

Tenth Meeting (Thursday, Oct. 30): Introduction to Wittgenstein's Tractatus

Required readings:

Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, excerpts

Background readings:

Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Wittgenstein"
Kremer, "The Whole Meaning of a Book of Nonsense"
Diamond, "Throwing Away the Ladder"

Eleventh Meeting (Tuesday, Nov. 4): Wittgenstein's Tractatus Continued

Required readings:

Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, excerpts

Background readings:

Conant, "The Search for Logically Alien Thought," pp. 150-161
Conant, "The Method of the Tractatus," sections 7-9, pp. 394-405
Conant and Diamond, "On Reading the Tractatus Resolutely"

Twelfth Meeting (Thursday, Nov. 6): Introduction to Logical Positivism

Required readings:

Neurath, "The Scientific World Conception", excerpt
Conant and Elliott, "Introduction to Part IV"
Carnap, *The Logical Structure of the World*, Introduction

Background readings:

Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Carnap"
Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Neurath"
Peter Galison, "Aufbau/Bauhaus: Logical Positivism and Architectural Modernism"

Thirteenth Meeting (Tuesday, Nov. 11): Carnap's Version of Logical Positivism

Required readings:

Carnap, "The Elimination of Metaphysics through Logical Analysis of Language"

Background readings:

Carnap, "Pseudo-Problems in Philosophy", excerpt

Carnap, "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology"

Conant: "The Method of the Tractatus," section 10, pp. 405-410

Fourteenth Meeting (Thursday, Nov. 13): Schlick's Neo-Kantian Logical Positivism

Required readings:

Schlick, "Form and Content, an Introduction to Philosophical Thinking", excerpt

Background readings:

Schlick, "The Turning Point in Philosophy"

Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Schlick"

Michael Friedman, "Moritz Schlick's Philosophical Papers"

Fifteenth Meeting (Tuesday, Nov. 18): C. I. Lewis's Analytic Kantianism

Required readings:

C. I. Lewis, *Mind and the World Order*, Chapter 2

Background readings:

Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to C. I. Lewis"

Lewis, *Mind and the World Order*, Chapters 1 and 3

Lewis, "Reply to Roderick Firth"

Sixteenth Meeting (Thursday, Nov. 20): The Carnap-Quine Debate

Required readings:

Quine, "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"
Quine, "Carnap and Logical Truth"
Carnap, "Reply to Quine"

Background readings:

Carnap, "Meaning and Synonymy in Natural Languages"
Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Quine"
Ricketts, "Rationality, Translation, and Epistemology Naturalized"

Seventeenth Meeting (Tuesday, Nov. 25): Gilbert Ryle and Oxford Analysis

Required readings:

Ryle, *The Concept of Mind*, Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2.

Background readings:

Ryle, "Knowing How and Knowing That", excerpt
Ryle, *The Concept of Mind*, pp. 319-330
Conant and Elliott, "Headnote to Ryle"

Thursday, Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving

No meeting

Eighteenth Meeting (Tuesday, Dec. 2): Wittgenstein on Rule Following

Required readings:

Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, sections 185-201

Background readings:

Kripke, *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language*, excerpts
McDowell, "Meaning and Intentionality in Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy"

Nineteenth Meeting (Thursday, Dec. 4): Wittgenstein's Conception of Philosophy

Required readings:

Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, sections 89-133

Background readings:

Wittgenstein, "Philosophy", from *The Big Typescript*

Diamond, "Criss-cross Philosophy"

Conant, "Wittgenstein's Methods"