

PHIL 387: 20th Century Philosophy

Fall 2008

2:30-3:50 TTh

ML 311

Prof. Steven Weinstein

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Office hours: TBA

Materials

Most readings will be available in the department office for copying. However, you should purchase:

Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus (2nd ed), Ludwig Wittgenstein, Routledge, 2001. (Any version of the Pears & McGuinness translation is fine.)

Philosophical Investigations (3rd edition) Ludwig Wittgenstein, Wiley-Blackwell, 1982. (The 50th anniversary edition is available at UW Bookstore, but any version of the 3rd edition should be fine.)

Course content

This is an overview of some of the major works in 20th century philosophy. We begin by looking at the roots of analytic philosophy and its preoccupation with logic and language by examining the work of Moore, Frege, and Russell, and then move on to Wittgenstein's idiosyncratic take on this approach. Then we look at logical positivism, which was heavily influenced by this early work of Wittgenstein. Next we look at the critique of the positivist project by Quine, along with Wittgenstein's own self-critique, and finally examine the impact of these critiques on modern analytic philosophy, specifically philosophy of science and metaphysics.

Goals

By the end of the course, you should have a sense of what the analytic movement in 20th century philosophy was about, and of how the investigations and critiques of the past 100 years have shaped the analytic philosophy of today.

Course Requirements

- Do the readings (available as a course reader) and attend class. Class participation and attendance will count for 20% of your grade.
- Write two papers, one each on one of the topics in epistemology and one of the topics in metaphysics. These will count for 40% each.

Schedule

Week 1 (Sept 9, 11)

A new method

Moore, 'Refutation of Idealism'

Frege, 'On Sense and Reference'

Week 2 (Sept 16, 18)

A new method

Russell, 'On Denoting'

Simons, 'Logical Atomism', in Baldwin, Thomas, ed., *The Cambridge History of Philosophy 1870-1945*, 2003, pp. 383-390.

Week 3 (Sept 23, 25)

Early Wittgenstein

Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, 1-3

Week 4 (Sept 30, Oct 2)

Early Wittgenstein

Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, 4-6

Week 5 (Oct 7, 9)

Logical positivism

Carnap, 'Pseudoproblems in Philosophy'

Ramsey, 'Theories', in F. P. Ramsey, *Foundations: Essays in Philosophy, Logic, Mathematics and Economics*, ed. by D. H. Mellor, London: Routledge, 1978, pp. 101-125

Week 6 (Oct 14, 16)

Late Wittgenstein

Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations* 1-200

Week 7 (Oct 21, 23)

Late Wittgenstein

Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, 201-400

First paper due: Oct 24

Week 8 (Oct 28, 30)

The new positivism

Carnap, 'Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology'

Quine, 'Two Dogmas of Empiricism'

Quine, excerpts from *Word and Object*.

Week 9 (Nov 4) (No class Nov 6)

The new philosophy of science

Kuhn, excerpts from *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

Week 10 (Nov 11, 13)*The new philosophy of science*Hacking, excerpts from *Representing and Intervening***Week 11 (Nov 18, 20)***The new metaphysics*

Lewis, 'Mad Pain & Martian Pain'

Dennett, 'Quining the Qualia'

Week 12 (Nov 25, 27)*The new metaphysics*Kripke, excerpts from *Naming and Necessity****Second paper due: December 8*****Further information***University of Waterloo Policy on Plagiarism*

It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of what constitutes responsible behaviour in a class, what constitutes plagiarism, and your rights and responsibilities with respect to these issues. Please familiarize yourself with the University of Waterloo's policies on these issues, as outlined in the calendar and available on the university web site at

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.pdf>

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.pdf>

See also <http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/%7Esager/plagiarism.html> for "How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors."

Note for students with disabilities

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term. Once registered with OPD, please meet with the professor, in confidence, during my office hours to discuss your needs.