

Philosophy 335: 20th Century Analytic Philosophy
Spring, 2019

MW 2:30-3:45

Instructor: Phillip Bricker

Office: E 327 South College

e-mail: bricker@philos.umass.edu

Course website: blogs.umass.edu/bricker/teaching/

Office Hours: Tues 3-4, and by appointment

Course Prerequisites. Two previous philosophy courses. Ideally, these might be an intro to philosophy course and an intro to logic course; but no particular philosophical content is presupposed.

Course Requirements: Your final grade is based on four short paper assignments, about 2 pages (800 words) each, and two in-class exams. These exams will involve short essay questions selected from a list of questions handed out one week before the exam. You are expected to attend class regularly and participate by asking questions and raising points in discussion. The exams will be worth 100 points each and the short papers 50 points each for a total of 400 points. There will be possible bonus between 0 and 20 points based on participation.

Textbook: All readings will be taken from *Analytic Philosophy: An Anthology*, edited by Martinich and Sosa.

Course Description: Analytic philosophy is a style of philosophy that has been dominant in the English-speaking academic world since the early 20th century. It is characterized by an emphasis on argumentative clarity and precision, sometimes making use of formal logic or conceptual analysis. Considered as a historical movement, its central figures include Gottlob Frege, Bertrand Russell, GE Moore, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Rudolf Carnap, and WV Quine. This course will take a “greatest hits” approach, reading many of the most famous essays of those early figures, as well as essays by Saul Kripke, Hilary Putnam, David Lewis, and more. The areas covered include the philosophy of language, metaphysics, epistemology, and the philosophy of mind.

Academic Honesty: All students are expected to know the academic honesty policy of UMass Amherst. Any paper submitted that commits plagiarism – that knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one’s own work – will receive a grade of F (zero points).

Schedule (subject to change):

W Jan 23. Introduction.

I. Philosophy of Language

M Jan 28. Frege, "On Sense and Reference"

W Jan 30. Frege, "The Thought"

M Feb 4. Russell, "On Denoting"

W Feb 6. Strawson, "On Referring"

M Feb 11. Kripke, "Identity and Necessity"

W Feb 13. Putnam, "Meaning and Reference"

F Feb 15. **First Paper Due**

II. Methodology

T Feb 19. Ayer, "The Elimination of Metaphysics"

W Feb 20. Carnap, "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology"

M Feb 25. Quine, "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"

W Feb 27. Grice and Strawson, "In Defense of a Dogma"

F March 1. **Second Paper Due**

III. Metaphysics

M March 4. Review Session for First Exam

W March 6. **First Exam**

M March 18. Russell, "Universals and Particulars"

W March 20. Black, "The Identity of Indiscernibles"

M March 25. Quine, "On What There Is"

IV. Epistemology

W March 27. Moore, "Proof of an External World"

M April 1. Russell, "Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description"

W April 3. Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?"

F April 5. **Third Paper Due**

M April 8. Goodman, "The New Riddle of Induction"

V. Philosophy of Mind, Freedom, and Personal Identity

W April 10. Nagel, "What Is It Like To Be a Bat?"

W April 17. Lewis, "Mad Pain and Martian Pain"

M April 22. Chisholm, "Human Freedom and the Self"

W April 24. Williams, "The Self and the Future"

F April 26. **Fourth Paper Due**

M April 29. Review Session for Second Exam

W May 1. **Second Exam**