DESCRIPTION

A survey of foundational and highly influential texts in Analytic Philosophy. Emphasis will be on four sub-topics, namely Language and Philosophical Logic, Epistemology, Metaphysics (including Metaethics) and Metaphilosophy. A focal point regardless of sub-topic will be the tools and techniques highlighted in these texts, which reappear across Analytic philosophy.

REQUIRED TEXT

G.E.M. Anscombe, Intention
J.L. Austin, How to do Things with Words
S. Kripke, Naming and Necessity
W. Sellars, Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind
L. Wittgenstein, Blue and Brown Books

OBJECTIVES

The twin objectives are honing of philosophical skills and enriching students’ familiarity with some “touchstone” material in 20th Century Analytic philosophy. In terms of skills, the emphasis will be on: professional-level philosophical writing; close reading of notoriously challenging texts; methodological reflection; and respectful but incisive philosophical dialogue.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Six “Briefing Notes”: 50%
- On the day they are discussed in class, students will submit 2-3 page (i.e., 750-1000 words) “reader responses” to selected writings, consisting of an outline of the central
argument, along with the student’s comments and questions. (This is to be sharply
contrasted with an outline of the paper, section-by-section.)
- Each Briefing Note is worth 10%, and all are obligatory. However the lowest grade will
be dropped
Short Term Paper: 35%
- Students will write a brief paper, the length and style of a conference paper (i.e., about
4000 words), on one of the topics addressed in the class.
Class Participation: 15%

COURSE READINGS

Gottlob Frege (1892), “On Sense and Reference”
Gottlob Frege (1918), “The Thought”

Bertrand Russell (1905), “On Denoting”
Bertrand Russell (1912), “Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description”


Rudolf Carnap (1932), “The Elimination of Metaphysics through Logical Analysis of Language”
W.V.O Quine (1951), “Two Dogmas of Empiricism”

Rudolf Carnap (1950), “Empiricism, Semantics and Ontology”

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1958), Blue and Brown Books

H. Paul Grice (1957), “Meaning”

Wilfred Sellars (1956), Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind

Saul Kripke (1980), Naming and Necessity

Elizabeth Anscombe (1957), Intention

Elizabeth Anscombe (1958), “Modern Moral Philosophy”
Elizabeth Anscombe (1975), “The First Person”

Philippa Foot (1972), “Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives”