

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**Philosophy 4080E: Contemporary Analytic Philosophy
Previously Philosophy 464E**

Fall/Winter 2011

Location: Middlesex College 17

Time: Wednesdays 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Instructor: Robert J. Stainton

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DESCRIPTION

A seminar devoted to the investigation of selected philosophical problems in the Analytic tradition.

In 2011-2012, the focus will be on epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of language and philosophical methodology. The course will be structured historically: loosely speaking, the Fall term will be devoted to pre-War writings, and the Winter term to post-War work. We begin with foundational work by Frege, Russell, and Moore. We then turn to the two fundamental branches of Early Analytic Philosophy in terms of methodology, namely Logical Empiricism and Ordinary Language Philosophy. We end with critiques of both traditions from Quine/Davidson on the one hand and Kripke/Putnam on the other.

I. Pre-War

1. Foundations: Frege, Russell, and Moore

Gottlob Frege. "Sense and Reference"

Bertrand Russell. "On Denoting"

G.E. Moore. "Proof of an External World"

2. Logical Empiricism

Ludwig Wittgenstein. *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (abridged)

Bertrand Russell. Selections from *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism*

Moritz Schlick. "The Foundations of Knowledge"

Rudolf Carnap. "The Elimination of Metaphysics Through Logical Analysis of Language"

Rudolf Carnap. "Empiricism, Semantics, Ontology"

3. Later Wittgenstein

Ludwig Wittgenstein. Selections from *Philosophical Investigations*.

II. Post-War

4. Ordinary Language Philosophy

Gilbert Ryle. "Knowing How and Knowing That"

J.L. Austin. Selections from *Sense and Sensibilia*
P.F. Strawson. "On Referring"
H.P. Grice. "Meaning"

5. Beyond Analysis: Indeterminacy

W.V. Quine. "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"
H.P. Grice and P.F. Strawson. "In Defense of A Dogma"
W.V. Quine. "Ontological Relativity"
D. Davidson, "Radical Interpretation"

6. Beyond Analysis: Externalism

Saul Kripke. "Identity and Necessity"
Hilary Putnam. "Meaning and Reference"

TEXTS

James Baillie, *Contemporary Analytic Philosophy: Core Readings*, 2nd Edition.

OBJECTIVES

- Familiarity with some of the core texts in early Analytic philosophy from Frege through the 1970s.
- Improved ability to read closely and understand very challenging philosophical articles.
- Improved ability to write advanced philosophical papers and engage in abstract debate.

REQUIREMENTS

- Ten Briefing Notes on selected articles (500-1000 each): 25%
- Two Exams: 40%
- Participation: 10%
- Short Final Essay (3000-4000 words): 25%

• *Briefing Notes*: At the outset of the relevant classes, students will hand in two to four pages of typewritten notes on the chapter assigned. These "briefing notes" will consist of two parts: an outline of the main argument being made (which might not follow the structure of the paper as written), and some critical questions and comments.

• *Exams*: The exams will be schedule at the end of each term. Each will cover all the material presented up to that point. Some knowledge of details will be tested, but the focus will be on comprehension of larger philosophical themes.

• *Essay*: The paper should be the sort of thing one could submit to a student conference – ideally about 12 double-spaced pages in length, definitely not more than 14 pages. Essay questions will be distributed in class.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.