

## **Philosophy 404: History of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy Spring 2011**

Instructor: Matthew Katz  
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### **Course Description:**

This course examines the history of philosophy in the twentieth century. The central theme is the influence the development of modern logic had on approaches to solving traditional philosophical problems. Topics will include logical atomism, logical empiricism, the analysis of ordinary language, the analysis of meaning, and the development of “naturalized” philosophy. Figures will include Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein, Moore, Ryle, Carnap, and Quine, among others.

### **Required Text:**

Baillie, James. (2003). *Contemporary Analytic Philosophy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Prentice Hall.  
Other readings on Blackboard (marked below by \*)

### **Requirements:**

Short reading responses (10%)  
One short paper (20%)  
One longer paper (25%)  
One mid-term exam (20%)  
One final exam (25%)

### **Academic Integrity:**

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with CMU's *Policy on Academic Integrity* ([http://academicsenate.cmich.edu/NonCad/ACADEMIC\\_INTEGRITY\\_POLICY.pdf](http://academicsenate.cmich.edu/NonCad/ACADEMIC_INTEGRITY_POLICY.pdf)).

### **Accommodations for students with disabilities:**

CMU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities, or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the office of Student Disability Services (Park Library 120, telephone 989-774-3018, TDD #2568), and then contact the professor as soon as possible.

### **Tentative Schedule:**

Weeks 1-2  
Introduction  
Frege and modern logic

Reading:

Frege, "Sense and reference"

Week 2-3

Russell

Reading:

Russell, "On Denoting", *Our Knowledge of the External World* (selections)\*, *Analysis of Mind* (selections)\*

Weeks 3-4

Wittgenstein

Reading:

Wittgenstein, *Tractatus* (selections)

Weeks 4-6

Logical Empiricism

Reading:

Hahn, Neurath, Carnap, "The Scientific Conception of the World: The Vienna Circle"\*

Schlick, "The Foundations of Knowledge"

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

Ayer, *Language Truth and Logic* (selections)\*

Week 6-8

Ordinary Language Philosophy

Reading:

Moore, "Proof of an External World", "A Defence of Common Sense"\*

Ryle, *The Concept of Mind* (selections)\*

Austin, *Sense and Sensibilia* (selections)

Strawson, "On Referring"

Grice, "Meaning"

Weeks 8-10

Quine and the analytic/synthetic distinction

Reading:

Quine, "Truth by Convention"\* , "Two Dogmas of Empiricism", "Ontological Relativity"

Grice and Strawson, "In Defense of a Dogma"

Carnap, "Empiricism Semantics and Ontology"

Weeks 10-12

Truth, meaning, and reference

Reading:

Davidson, "Truth and Meaning"

Kripke, "Identity and Necessity"

Putnam, "Meaning and Reference"

Putnam, "Brains in a Vat"\*

Weeks 12-14

Philosophy naturalized

Reading,

Quine, "Epistemology naturalized"\*

Goldman, "What is justified belief?"\*

Kitcher, "A Priori Knowledge"\*

Kim, "What is naturalized epistemology?"\*