



## PHIL 3104: The Roots of Analytic Philosophy

0.5 credit. In the context of the work of such writers as Frege and Bradley, a discussion of early philosophical works of Russell, Moore and Wittgenstein. In addition some early representatives of positivism and pragmatism may be examined.

Fall 2021

Class times:

Mondays & Wednesdays

2:35—3:55 p.m.

Dr. David Matheson

Department of Philosophy

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Office hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays

4:05—5:05 p.m.

### *Overview & objectives*

What we now call analytic philosophy developed out of the work of some key figures in early 20th century philosophy. In this course we will explore the metaphysical and epistemological work of five of these figures: G.E. Moore, Bertrand Russell, Gottlob Frege, Susan Stebbing, and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

After setting the stage with a consideration of prominent idealist views of the day, we will look at Moore's critique of those views and corresponding defense of commonsensical alternatives. We will then turn our attention to Russell's logical atomism and Frege's logical realism. In the final section of the course, we will consider Stebbing's and Wittgenstein's concerns about the commitments and implications of the emerging analytic approach to philosophy.

The course has two main objectives. The first is to give you a good understanding of the relevant work by Moore, Russell, Frege, Stebbing, and Wittgenstein. The second, equally important objective, is to enhance your ability to assess the advantages and drawbacks of analytic philosophy in the light of your understanding of this work.

### *Readings & texts*

All of the readings for this course will be accessible to you either online or through or library's digital holdings, except for the following required text, which is available for purchase at the University Bookstore:

Wittgenstein, L. ([1933—35] 1965). *The blue and brown books*. New York: Harper & Row.

The remaining online/digital readings are as follows:

- Berkeley, G. ([1710] 2009), Introduction & “Of the principles of human knowledge, §§1—33. *A treatise concerning the principles of human knowledge*. Project Gutenberg. (<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/4723/4723-h/4723-h.htm>)
- Bradley, F.H. ([1893] 2013). Introduction & Chapter IV. *Appearance and reality: A metaphysical essay*. Wikisource. ([http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Appearance\\_and\\_Reality](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Appearance_and_Reality))
- Frege, G. ([1892] 1948). Sense and reference, trans. by M. Black, *The Philosophical Review*, 57, 209—30.
- . ([1918] 1956). The thought: A logical inquiry, trans. by A.M. & M. Quinton, *Mind*, 65, 289—311.
- Kant, I. ([1787] 1998). Refutation of idealism. *The critique of pure reason*, trans. by P. Guyer & A.W. Wood (B274—79, pp. 326—29). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Moore, G.E. (1903). The refutation of idealism. *Mind*, 12, 433—53.
- . (1917). The conception of reality. *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society (New Series)*, 18, 101—20.
- . (1925). A defence of common sense. J.H. Muirhead (ed.), *Contemporary British philosophy, second series: Personal statements* (pp. 191—224). London: George Allen & Unwin.
- . (1939). Proof of an external world. *Proceedings of the British Academy*, 25, 273—300.
- Russell, B. (1918—19). The philosophy of logical atomism. *The Monist: An International Journal of General Philosophical Inquiry*, 28, 495—527; 29, 32—63 & 190—222 & 345—380.
- Stebbing, S. (1932). The method of analysis in metaphysics. *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, 33, 65—94.
- . (1937). The common reader and the popularizing scientist. In *Philosophy & the physicists* (pp. 3—18). London: Methuen & Co. [Available through the library’s HathiTrust subscription.]

### Evaluation

*Tests* (2x30% = 60% of overall grade). There will be two tests in this course, both delivered on Brightspace. These tests will be no longer than one hour each, and they will consist of multiple-choice and brief essay questions. The first test will be on October 4, the second on November 24.

*Term paper* (40% of overall grade). You will also be expected to write a term paper in the course. The paper will be approximately ten pages (or 3,000 words) in length. Topic options for the paper will be posted on Brightspace by the final day of classes. The essay will be due electronically on or before the final day of the fall term examination period, December 23.

### Schedule

The centre column of the following table indicates the general lecture topics corresponding to the weekly class times listed in the left column. The right column indicates the specific readings I will discuss in relation to those general topics.

Sept 8	The idealist background	Berkeley, Introduction & Of the principles of human knowledge, §§1—33
Sept 13 & 15	The idealist background (cont’d)	Bradley, Introduction & Chapter IV  Kant, Refutation of idealism

Sept 20 & 22	Moore's critique & defense	Moore, The refutation of idealism Moore, The conception of reality
Sept 27 & 29	Moore's critique & defense (cont'd)	Moore, Proof of an external world Moore, A defence of common sense
Oct 4 & 6	<b>Oct 4: First Test</b> Russell's logical atomism	Russell, The philosophy of logical atomism, lectures I—II
Oct 11 & 13	<b>Oct 11: Thanksgiving</b> Russell's logical atomism (cont'd)	Russell, The philosophy of logical atomism, lectures III—IV
Oct 18 & 20	Russell's logical atomism (cont'd)	Russell, The philosophy of logical atomism, lectures V—VIII
Oct 25 & 27	<b>Fall Break</b>	
Nov 1 & 3	Frege's logical realism	Frege, Sense and reference
Nov 8 & 10	Frege's logical realism (cont'd)	Frege, The thought: A logical inquiry
Nov 15 & 17	Stebbing's insights	Stebbing, The method of analysis in metaphysics
Nov 22 & 24	Stebbing's insights (cont'd) <b>Nov 24: Second Test</b>	Stebbing, The common reader and the popularizing scientist
Nov 29—Dec 1	Wittgenstein's doubts	Wittgenstein, The blue book [selections]
Dec 6 & 8	Wittgenstein's doubts (cont'd)	Wittgenstein, The brown book [selections]
Dec 23	<b>Term paper due</b>	

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2021-22)

### Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

### Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### Deferrals for Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

### Deferrals for Final Exams:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further information.

### Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

### Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or religious obligation:* write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the [EDC](#) website.
- *Academic accommodations for students with disabilities:* The [Paul Menton Centre](#) for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *Accommodation for Student Activities:* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 8	Classes start.
Sept. 22	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 11	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 25-29	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 26	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 10	Last day of fall term classes. <i>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</i> Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a fall term course.
Dec. 11-23	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 23	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 10	Classes begin.
Jan. 24	Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 21	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 22-25	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 29	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Apr. 12	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. <i>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</i> Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 13	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 14-28	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 15	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 28	All take-home examinations are due.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:  
[www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)  
 520-2110

Registrar's Office:  
[www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)  
 520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:  
[www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising)  
 520-7850

Writing Services:  
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>  
 520-3822

MacOdrum Library  
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>  
 520-2735