

## Philosophy A465: Introduction to Analytic Philosophy

Loyola University of New Orleans

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### Course description

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a handful of British and German philosophers broke with conventional approaches in their discipline and established a philosophical movement, united by a distinctive style and a set of common concerns, which would set the terms for debate in Britain and America for much of the rest of the century. Though members of the resulting “analytic” tradition would disagree on a great many issues, they were united by a respect for the authority of natural science, an insistence on clarity and logical rigor in philosophical argumentation, and (for the most part) an interest in the role of language in generating and solving philosophical problems.

In this course we will examine broad trends in the development of the analytic tradition, beginning with the originators of the approach (Moore, Frege, and Russell), moving on to the two major mid-century movements paradigmatic of the analytic approach (logical positivist and ordinary language philosophy), and concluding with the two contemporary movements that have inherited the legacy of analysis (the naturalistic pragmatism of Quine, and the new modal metaphysics of Kripke and Putnam). Some have argued that each of these movements represent the dissolution of analytic philosophy, but this course will emphasize how they represent more consistent versions of earlier approaches (Quine is more consistently empiricist than his positivist predecessors, while Kripke represents a somewhat unwitting return to the ideas of Frege).

Throughout the course, we will focus on the topics that were of central concern to each of the traditions we’ll examine—usually topics related to the nature of reference, meaning, and knowledge. Though these are usually topics classified under the heading of the philosophy of language, I will also make a case that there are often deeper questions about the nature of human *consciousness* which undergird many traditional problems in analytic philosophy.

### Required texts

- James Baillie, *Contemporary Analytic Philosophy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Prentice Hall, 2003)
- Additional readings on Blackboard

### Lecture and reading schedule (*tentative*)

#### Introduction and early figures

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##### Monday, January 10

Introduction and background

##### Wednesday, January 12

Analytic vs. continental

- “Preface,” Baillie, pp. ix-xii.
- “Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?,” Edmund Gettier (Blackboard)
- “The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge,” Jean-François Lyotard (Blackboard)

##### Friday, January 14

Background on skepticism

- Descartes, from the *Meditations* (Blackboard)
- Kant, from the *Critique of Pure Reason* and the *Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics* (Blackboard)

##### Monday, January 17—NO CLASS—MLK DAY HOLIDAY

##### Wednesday, January 19

Moore

- “Introduction to G.E. Moore,” Baillie, pp. 56-60.
- “Proof of an External World,” Moore, pp. 61-76.

Friday, January 21

Moore (continued)

Monday, January 24

Frege

- “Introduction to Gottlob Frege,” Baillie, pp. 1-7
- “Sense and Reference,” Frege, pp. 8-22.

Wednesday, January 26

Frege (continued)

Friday, January 28

Frege (continued)

Monday, January 31

Russell

- “Introduction to Bertrand Russell,” Baillie, pp. 24-31
- Russell, “Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description” (Blackboard)
- Begin “On Denoting,” Russell, pp. 31-41 (but skip pp. 36-37, from “We, say, to begin with...” until “That the meaning is relevant...”)

Wednesday, February 2

Russell (continued)

- Russell, “On Denoting,” pp. 31-41 (but skip pp. 36-37, from “We, say, to begin with...” until “That the meaning is relevant...”)

Friday, February 4

Russell (continued)

- Russell, “On Denoting” (continued)

Monday, February 7

➤ **EXAM #1**

Wednesday, February 9

Early Wittgenstein

- “Introduction to Ludwig Wittgenstein,” Baillie, pp. 77-81
- Selection from the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, Wittgenstein, pp. 89-109. Skip 5.15-5.42, 5.46-5.5423, 5.62-6.001, 6.2-6.24.

Friday, February 11

Early Wittgenstein (continued)

Monday, February 14

Early Wittgenstein (continued)

***The climax of 20<sup>th</sup> century analysis***

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Wednesday, February 16

Logical empiricism

- “Introduction to Logical Empiricism,” Baillie, pp. 131-140.
- “The Foundation of Knowledge,” Schlick, pp. 141-154.

Friday, February 18

Logical empiricism (continued)

- Schlick (continued)

Monday, February 21

Logical empiricism (continued)

- “The Elimination of Metaphysics through Logical Analysis of Language,” Carnap, pp. 155-171.

Wednesday, February 23

Logical empiricism (continued)

- Carnap (continued)

Friday, February 25

Logical empiricism (continued)

- Ayer, “The A priori” (Blackboard)

Monday, February 28

Logical empiricism (continued)

- Ayer, “Critique of Ethics and Theology” (Blackboard)

Wednesday, March 2

Later Wittgenstein against logical empiricism

- “Introduction to Ludwig Wittgenstein,” Baillie, pp. 82-88.
- *Philosophical Investigations*, Wittgenstein, pp. 110-130.

Friday, March 4

**NO CLASS**

- **PAPER #1 DUE (just before noon, 11:59am)**

Monday, March 7–11—NO CLASS—MARDI GRAS HOLIDAYS

Monday, March 14

Later Wittgenstein against logical empiricism (continued)

Wednesday, March 16

Ordinary language philosophy

- Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, §1-23 (Blackboard)

Friday, March 18

Ordinary language philosophy (continued)

- “Introduction to Gilbert Ryle,” Baillie, pp. 186-190
- “Knowing How and Knowing That,” Ryle, 191-200.

Monday, March 21

Ordinary language philosophy (continued)

- “Introduction to J.L. Austin,” Baillie, pp. 201-206.
- “Selections from *Sense and Sensibilia*,” Austin, pp. 207-225.

Wednesday, March 23

Ordinary language philosophy (continued)

- Austin (continued)

Friday, March 25

Ordinary language philosophy

- “Introduction to P.F. Strawson,” Baillie, pp. 225-229.

- “On Referring,” Strawson, pp. 230-253.

Monday, March 28

Ordinary language philosophy (continued)

- Strawson (continued)

***Reactions to analysis and retrenchment***

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Wednesday, March 30

Naturalistic pragmatism

- “Introduction to W.V. Quine,” Baillie, pp. 262-267.
- “Two Dogmas of Empiricism,” Quine, pp. 272-289.

Friday, April 1

**NO CLASS**

<p><u>Monday, April 4</u></p> <p>➤ <b>EXAM #2</b></p>
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Wednesday, April 6

Naturalistic pragmatism (continued)

- Quine, “Two Dogmas of Empiricism” (continued)

Friday, April 8

Naturalistic pragmatism (continued)

- “Introduction to W.V. Quine,” Baillie, pp. 267-270.
- Quine, “Epistemology Naturalized” (Blackboard)

Monday, April 11

Naturalistic pragmatism (continued)

- Quine, “Epistemology Naturalized” (continued)

Wednesday, April 13

The return to metaphysics

- “Introduction to Saul Kripke,” Baillie, pp. 381-387.
- “Identity and Necessity,” Kripke, pp. 388-407.

Friday, April 15

The return to metaphysics (continued)

- Kripke (continued)

***Monday, April 18–Monday, April 25—NO CLASSES—EASTER HOLIDAY***

Wednesday, April 27

The return to metaphysics (continued)

- Kripke (continued)

Friday, April 29

The return to metaphysics (continued)

- “Introduction to Externalism,” Baillie, pp. 412-418.
- “Meaning and reference,” Putnam, pp. 420-429.

Monday, May 2

The return to metaphysics (continued)

- Putnam (continued)

Wednesday, May 4

To be determined.

Friday, May 6th

- **PAPER #1 DUE (just before noon, 11:59am): Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am**