

Proseminar in Philosophy
Fall 2008

Instructors:

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Place: 32-D831; TF 10-1.

Course description: intensive seminar on the foundations of analytic philosophy for first-year graduate students.

Assignments and course format: each session will consist in a discussion of previously assigned questions on the reading. The discussion will start off with a presentation by two of the seminar participants. Everyone should come prepared to discuss the questions. Each presentation should be accompanied by a handout (1-2 pages). At least one presentation should be in Powerpoint. Two papers are required: one 8 page paper, **due October 17th**; one 12 page paper, **due at the end of term** (10th December).

Books:

All of these should be available at the MIT COOP.

1. Frege, *The Foundations of Arithmetic*; Northwestern University Press; 2nd Rev edition (December 1, 1980)
2. Beaney, ed., *The Frege Reader*, Blackwell Publishers (May 1997)
3. Russell, *Problems of Philosophy*; Oxford University Press, USA; 2nd edition (October 2, 1997)
4. Wittgenstein, *Tractatus* (Pears and McGuinness trans.), Routledge; 2nd edition (September 1, 2001)
5. Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, Blackwell Publishers (March 2003)
6. Moore, *Principia Ethica* (ed. Baldwin), Cambridge University Press; 2 edition (November 11, 1993)

7. Ayer, *Language, Truth, and Logic*; Dover Publications; Reprint edition (June 1, 1952)
8. Sidgwick, *The Methods of Ethics* (1884); Hackett, 1981.
9. Austin, *Sense and Sensibilia*, Oxford University Press, USA; 2Rev Ed edition (August 1, 1962)
10. Austin, *How to Do Things with Words*, Harvard University Press; 2nd edition (February 19, 2005)

Recommended:

11. Soames, *Philosophical Analysis in the Twentieth Century* (vol 1) (Princeton University Press, 2005)
12. Soames, *Philosophical Analysis in the Twentieth Century* (vol 2), Princeton University Press, 2005)

Schedule:

	F Sep 5	Introduction
1	T Sep 9	(A) Frege, <i>Foundations of Arithmetic</i>
2	F Sep 12	(A) Frege, <i>Foundations of Arithmetic</i>
3	T Sep 16	(A) Frege, <i>Foundations of Arithmetic</i>
4	F Sep 19	(A) Frege, 'Function and Concept'; Frege, 'On Concept and Object'
5	T Sep 23	(A) Frege, 'On Sense and Reference'; Frege, 'The Thought'
6	F Sep 26	(R) Sigwick, <i>Methods of Ethics</i>
7	T Sep 30	(R) Sigwick, <i>Methods of Ethics</i>
8	F Oct 3	(A) Russell, 'On Denoting'
9	T Oct 7	(R) Russell, <i>Problems of Philosophy</i>
10	F Oct 10	(A) Russell, <i>Philosophy of Logical Atomism</i>
11	T Oct 14	(R) Moore, <i>Principia Ethica</i>
12	F Oct 17	(R) Moore, <i>Principia Ethica</i>
13	T Oct 21	(R) Moore, 'The Conception of Intrinsic Value'
14	F Oct 24	(R) Moore, 'The Refutation of Idealism', 'A Defence of Common Sense'

- 15 T Oct 28 (A) Moore, 'Proof of an External World'
- 16 F Oct 31 (A) Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*
- 17 T Nov 4 (A) Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*
- 18 F Nov 7 (A) Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*
[T Nov 11—NO CLASS, Veterans' Day Holiday]
- 19 F Nov 14 (R) Ayer, *Language Truth and Logic*
- 20 T Nov 18 (A) Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*
- 21 F Nov 21 (A) Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*
- 22 T Nov 25 (A) Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*
[F Dec 28—NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Holiday]
- 23 T Dec 2 (R) Austin, *Sense and Sensibilia*
- 24 F Dec 5 (R) Austin, *How to Do Things with Words*
- 25 T Dec 9 (R) Austin, *How to Do Things with Words*