

Syllabus

Prerequisites

The course offered this quarter is the second part of a two-part sequence. The Winter quarter portion of the course furnished an overview of Frege's philosophy, with an eye to providing most of what you need to know about Frege in order to read Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*.

Students who were not enrolled in Part I may take Part II of the course for credit only with special permission from the instructors. Graduate students should get permission from Professor Conant; undergraduates from Jay Elliott. Students who were enrolled in Part I may take Part II without permission.

Course Description

This quarter's portion of the course will be devoted to a careful reading of Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and an examination of some of the central disputes in the secondary literature concerning it. The aim will be to provide an overview of the philosophy of the early Wittgenstein, with special attention to the critique of Frege and Russell, the structure and the method of the *Tractatus* as a whole, its relation to the writings of the members of The Vienna Circle, and especially some of the most hotly debated exegetical controversies recently surrounding the work. Some attention will also be given to the topic of the relation between the *Tractatus* and Wittgenstein's later work. Secondary reading will include articles by Rudolf Carnap, Hide Ishiguro, Cora Diamond, Peter Winch, Thomas Ricketts, Peter Hacker, Peter Geach, Michael Kremer, and Elizabeth Anscombe, among others.

Course Requirements

The only requirement for the course will be a seminar-length paper due at the end of the quarter. Graduate students who took Part One of the course may hand in a single long paper for credit for both parts of the course.

Books

The following books are for sale at the Seminary Co-op and are *required* for the course:

Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, Ogden translation
Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, Pears & McGuinness translation
Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Notebooks, 1914-1916*

G. E. M. Anscombe, *An Introduction to Wittgenstein's Tractatus*
H. O. Mounce, *Wittgenstein's Tractatus: An Introduction*
Cora Diamond, *The Realistic Spirit*

The following books were for sale at the Seminary Co-op last quarter, are *not* required for the course, but will prove useful:

Bertrand Russell, *Theory of Knowledge: The 1913 Manuscript*
Bertrand Russell, *The Principles of Mathematics*

Additional Secondary Reading

There is a course packet of secondary literature on the *Tractatus* for sale in the Classics Building Copy Center ("Course Packet A: Secondary Literature") in which many of the readings for the course are to be found. The final page of this syllabus provides the table of contents of this course packet. There will also be an additional electronic course packet of secondary literature on the *Tractatus* that will be e-mailed to students in the class in the coming weeks.